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MY FAMILY AND ANTECEDENTS

INCLUDING THE READ, THOMPSON, NORRIS, JORDAN, POTTER, SHARP, AND ALLIED FAMILIES OF MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA.

A compilation of records and notes accumulated over a period of years by

CARL ROSS McKENRICK

one of the eight children of Joseph Francis and Margaret Eleanor Read McKenrick, born at Clearfield, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1880, and since 1901 a resident of Baltimore, Maryland.

Baltimore, September, 1949.

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Maryland Hist. Soc., $12.50 4-26-66 P.O. 2089

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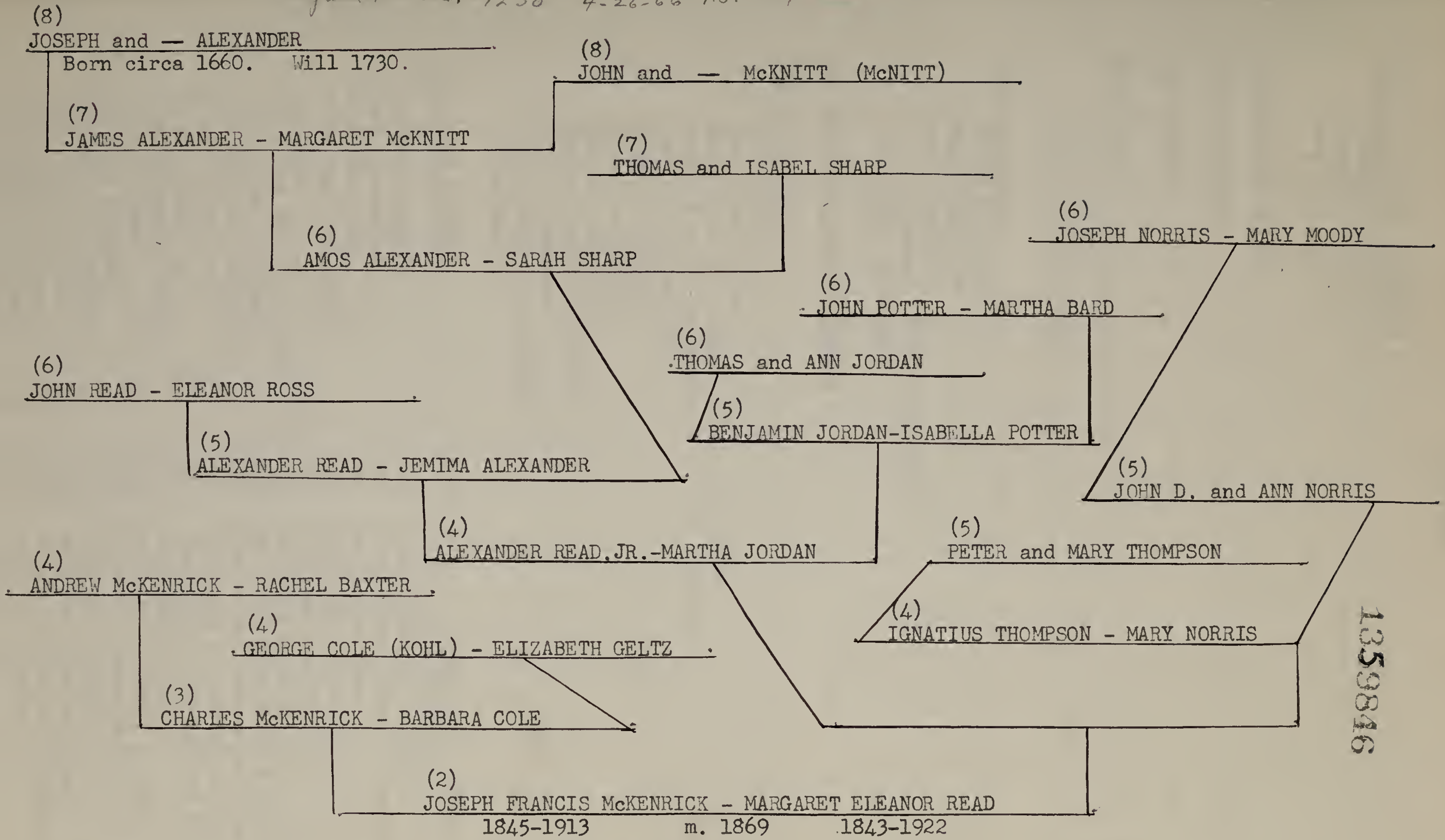
(8)
JOSEPH and — ALEXANDER
Born circa 1660. Will 1730.
(8)
JOHN and — McKNITT (McNITT)
(7)
JAMES ALEXANDER - MARGARET McKNITT
(7)
THOMAS and ISABEL SHARP
(6)
JOSEPH NORRIS - MARY MOODY
(6)
AMOS ALEXANDER - SARAH SHARP
(6)
JOHN POTTER - MARTHA BARD
(6)
THOMAS and ANN JORDAN
(6)
JOHN READ - ELEANOR ROSS
(5)
BENJAMIN JORDAN-ISABELLA POTTER
(5)
ALEXANDER READ - JEMIMA ALEXANDER
(5)
JOHN D. and ANN NORRIS
(4)
ALEXANDER READ, JR.-MARTHA JORDAN
(5)
PETER and MARY THOMPSON
(4)
ANDREW McKENRICK - RACHEL BAXTER
(4)
IGNATIUS THOMPSON - MARY NORRIS
(4)
GEORGE COLE (KOHL) - ELIZABETH GELTZ
(3)
CHARLES McKENRICK - BARBARA COLE
(2)
JOSEPH FRANCIS McKENRICK - MARGARET ELEANOR READ
1845-1913
m. 1869
1843-1922

Issue:	Paul Lossing	b. 1870, d. 1947
	Frances Read	1872
(1)	Lulu Jane	1874
	Blanche Marie	1876
	Carl Ross	1880
	Leo Frederick	1882
	Ivan Joseph	1884
	Mary Elsie	1887

McKENRICK LINEAGE

CONTENTS

- Read and Allied Families 1-14
  - Alexander Read 5
  - Alexander Read, Jr. 10
  - Ross Read 11
- Ignatius Thompson 15-17
- Norris Ancestry 18-20
- The Jordans 21-24
- The Potters 25-38
  - John and Martha Potter's Family 39
  - Thomas Potter 40
  - General James Potter 41-46
- The Alexanders 47-51
  - Joseph Alexander 52
  - James Alexander 53-56
  - Amos Alexander 57-59
  - The Mecklenburg (N.C.) Alexanders 60-62
  - Rev. Joseph Alexander 63-64
- The Sharp (or Sharpe) Family 65-70
- The McKenricks 71-75
  - Andrew McKenrick 71-74
  - The George Coles 73-75
  - Charles and Anna Barbara Cole McKenrick 74-75
  - Joseph Francis and Margaret E. Read McKenrick 11-79-137-139
  - Carl Ross McKenrick 12-82
  - McKenrick-Sandys 83-84
  - McKenrick-Woodward 85
  - Woodward-Bartlett 86
  - Charles Damer McKenrick 87
  - McKenrick-Howson 88
  - Stratford Eyre McKenrick 89
  - McKenrick-Price 90
- Wills and Records 91
  - Joseph Alexander 92
  - James Alexander 93
  - Amos Alexander 96
  - Sarah Sharp Alexander 98
  - John Read 99
  - Alexander Read Conveyances 100-103
  - Theophilus Alexander 104
  - John MacKnite (McKnitt) 106
  - Thomas Sharp, Sr. 108
  - Thomas Sharp, Jr. 110
  - Kezia Alexander Sharp 111
  - Peter Thompson 114
  - Ignatius Thompson 115
  - Mary Norris Thompson 116
  - John Potter Jordan 116a
  - John McKnitt Estate 107
  - Walter Sharp Estate 112

Notes and Comments:

- On the name McKenrick 76-78
- Peter Thompson Lineage 113
- Grandmother Mary Thompson Read 16
- Evans-Alexander 117
- Potter-Hamilton-Poe-Bard 118-121
- Hamilton Family 122
- Settlers on Marsh Creek Adams Co. 124
- Potter-Jordan Militia Records 126
- George Read and George Ross (Signers) 127
- Alexander Descent from Bruce 131
- James White and Charles McClung 133
- Hugh Lawson White 135
- Marsh-Damer-Trail Military Services 136
- Rev. Dr. Thomas Read 5-123
- Alexander B. Reed 9
- Governor William Bigler 10-59
- Wartime Notes, J. F. McKenrick 137
- Mother's Diaries 139

THE READ AND ALLIED FAMILIES OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

The history of the Read family of Clearfield County centers upon Alexander Read, the pioneer settler, who came with his family to "The Ridges" above the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, a few miles south of the present town of Clearfield (Chinclacamoose) in 1802. This was two years before the formation of the new county and twenty years before it became a completely organized political unit.

It relates back to the settlement of the "New Munster" tract in the northeastern corner of Maryland and the contiguous seaboard region during the preceding century. The Reads and allied families, Alexanders, Sharps, McKnitts, Rosses and Jordans were among the group of Ulster Scots who were early settlers on that tract.

A story of the grant of "New Munster" by the Proprietary of Maryland in 1683 and the settlement thereon, was published in the June 1940 "Maryland Historical Magazine" over the name of C. Ross McKenrick. A reprint of that article is included in this family sketch for the historical background it affords.

Beyond the Atlantic shores, these families were mainly of Lowland Scot origin, residing transiently in the North of Ireland, and joining in the flood of migration to America at various periods prior to the Revolution.

The story of earlier movements abroad, with the political and religious influences contributing thereto, is familiar history and too remote from the period of Clearfield County Settlement to warrant repetition.

The inherent traits of the Scotch Irish figured equally with outward circumstances in shaping their course in American history. The same motives that governed their zeal for the Revolutionary cause made them a somewhat irritating political factor in Pennsylvania. Their clannish instinct seems to have bound them to group action and marked them as a class, notwithstanding a contrary individualistic tendency toward flying apart. Enough to say that they sought the frontiers and preferred untrodden paths to any course or dictum laid down by others.

While unimportant and inconspicuous in itself, considering the widespread process of settlement that marked the period, this matter of clearing land for homesites on The Ridges of Lawrence Township is typical pioneer history. It deals with the kind of rugged personalities that formed the young nation's backbone.

In the interim between first landing at the ports of New Castle or Philadelphia and the seating of Clearfield County lands, the Reads and other New Munster families with Scotch Irish deriving from other quarters, may be traced in progressive movement toward the west.

Most of the early settlers of Clearfield County are found in the eastern counties of the State during the Indian War and Revolutionary periods. The drift may be roughly timed with dates of formation of new counties west of the Susquehanna. Cecil County, Maryland, dates back to 1674, while Chester County, Pennsylvania and New Castle County, Delaware, are contemporaneous with Penn's arrival in 1682. Lancaster County was formed in 1729, York County in

1749. A year later, 1750, Cumberland County was established and then comprised all the territory beyond York. Bedford was formed in 1771, Northumberland in 1772, Huntingdon in 1787, Mifflin in 1789, Centre in 1800 and Clearfield in 1804.

The creation of new counties, of course, bore a direct relationship to the Penns' land purchases from and treaties with the Indians. The Scotch Irish preponderated on the extending borders and were frequently found pushing the frontier beyond limits fixed either by the land purchases or due regard for their own safety from Indian attack.

Through military services, land ownership and civic activities, the shifting locale of these families may be fairly well traced. Being little given to keeping personal annals, their itinerant habits and the dearth of private family records make this a tedious pursuit, however.

The Potter, Thompson and Norris families, also allied with the Reads, were located within the same middle region of Pennsylvania before moving into Clearfield County. Immediately following the earliest settlements on "The Ridges," appear other families of similar racial origin, coming from the same quarter. Among them are the Reeds, Dunlaps, Arderys, Spackmans, Leonards, Straws, Lytles, Hartshornes, Logans, Moores, Fergusons, Cathcarts, Merrills, Mitchells, Weavers and Biglers, to name a few of those who became inter-related with the Read family later.

Most of the migrants to the upper West Branch Country evidently approached by way of Penn's Valley (Centre County) toward the Bald Eagle Mountain. A road developed out of an old Indian path about 1800 through Milesburg (an early rival of Bellefonte) to Phillipsburg, thence toward the present sites of Curwensville, and Clearfield (then Chinclacamoose). Beyond, it led to the old forts of Le Boeuf, Venango and others about Lake Erie. Another pioneer route followed the meanders of the West Branch more closely from Shamokin (Sunbury) the site of Fort Augusta, via Fort Muncy (Williamsport) Great Island (Lock Haven) and from the Sinnamahoning region. Chinclacamoose was the converging point of a number of these early trails, carrying as far as Kittanning the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. It was itself the site of an early French-Indian fort and trading post.

Indian dangers were only a memory in these parts at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The settler had but to conquer the forces of nature. After the turbid period of war with economic collapse and unrest following, those who dared turned from the older settlements toward new land and wider opportunity. Constitutional government was on a firm footing. Settled lives and peaceful pursuits were in prospect.

The members of this group had in common staked their fortunes and risked their lives in the cause of independence. They were a high minded race, swayed more by idealistic than adventurous impulses and rough living never dulled their concept of orderly and enlightened civilization. If the wheel of fortune had turned them back to the bare land, their higher intellectual and social aims still remained intact.

It must have been the grandeur of the hills and the rugged beauty of the river winding through the valleys that appealed here on The Ridges settlement. Certainly the hand of man had as yet done nothing to improve or mar the scene. They did not choose the land for its fertility or its accessibility

to markets, as the German settler has always done. For those home minded, stout hearted and not too materialistic, it was then and still is ideal. A wealth of timber crowded the surface and greater wealth of coal and minerals lay beneath, but evidently their minds were not set on the exploitation of natural resources. This came later and chiefly under the guidance of "York State" men and "Yankees" who had keener business instincts. The fact that the main paths of commerce and trends of population were by-passing the region was of small concern. Following the crowd was not their habit. Whether through lack of imagination or their devout belief in the sacredness of work, hard and blunt ways to an end generally were chosen over the easy or clever.

From all that can be gathered, the life of this pioneer settlement during its first half century ran true to the rural American type. The individual settlers were of the same general stock as was spreading far and wide, not only over Pennsylvania but south and west as well. Their backgrounds were similar, their present purposes and problems much alike. Movement away from settled centers created new sectional alignments, as well as cultural handicaps. Geographical location and neighborhood influences tended to remold and modify personal habits and attitudes. New interests, preferences and prejudices would develop as surely as changed idiom and accent. Ingrained notions and racial instincts remained.

The striking homogeneity of the American pioneer becomes more apparent as one examines his family roots or reverses the trail of his journeyings. The spirit of sectionalism which came of the later scattering disappears in the long vista. Boone, Houston, Jackson, Pickens, Polk, Calhoun, the Poes and the Bradys are typical of those with lines running back to the Pennsylvania frontiers and whose careers were influenced by later location.

While the settlers on the West Branch became firmly localized after a generation or two and seemed indigenous to the region, they were of the breed that followed the Boone trail through the Cumberland Gap to Kentucky, joined the George Rogers Clark expedition or sought settlements in the Ohio Country under Gist and St. Clair.

Although Clearfield County was nominally formed in 1804, it was for many years only an "election district," subordinated to Centre County as to Courts and general administration. Not until 1822 did it reach full autonomy. In the year 1810 the County's population was given as 875. Local control was exercised meanwhile by the group described in the matter of elections and law enforcement. The first post office was "Readsboro" at the site of Alexander Read's home and he was the postmaster until 1819 when the town of Clearfield superseded the rural settlement as a center of activity.

The first leaders were men of the "country squire" type who assumed responsibility for law and order and exerted something of a puritanical right of control over moral behavior in the vicinage. Church attendance and Sabbath observance were marks of respectability while week-day industry, thrift and self-reliance were essential to good reputation. The book and the plough were equally important means of cultivation and the home standards of the women generally aroused the spirit of self-improvement. Preaching, teaching and farming were all favored, and frequently intermingled, vocations, for their idea of culture assumed use of hand as well as brain. Social and recreational activities were incidental merely, but there was ample vent for the play spirit in corn huskings, barn raisings, quilting parties, spelling bees and singing classes.

Old military habits survived in the custom of neighborhood attendance at "muster" or "General training." Some still stalwart veteran of the Revolution headed the drills. Festive occasions no doubt, colored by the display of relic regalia of the Continental Army, mixed types of muskets and field music of thumping drums.

The time was soon to come when the new industrialism would challenge agriculture. The back country offered nothing more thrilling than log drives and lumber camps nor profit beyond the yield of the soil. All opportunities for higher learning lay in the urban centres. The adventurous and the ambitious youth felt new urges. Beyond were the oil regions, California gold, railroads, factories, marts of trade, the better schools and the universities. The simple country life had developed physical vigor and sound habits but not opportunity. Even the middle aged man of family was being enticed toward the fertile prairie lands of the midwest or the rich coal and timber lands of the south. Home ties were being broken again as they had in the past, for different reasons. Some answered the call of the Army. The northern boy would face his southern cousins on the battlefield because, perchance, their migrating sires had picked opposite sides of a boundary line for their homesites.

The revolutionary shift from an agricultural to an industrial economy was well under way by the close of the War between the states, but its tremendous impact on old ways of life was little sensed at the time. Man's mechanical and commercial ingenuity, increased speed in travel and communication and new national rivalries brought to the present world many confusing problems.

In these times it is refreshing to look back on the old scenes of American life, where individual right, self reliance and neighborly duty held first place in conduct and the foundations of just government and successful living were laid. The settlement on The Ridges formed one of the many such buttresses of our American faith in the future.

ALEXANDER READ

ALEXANDER READ was born May 8, 1752, on the "New Munster" tract in North Millford Hundred, Cecil County, Maryland. He was, therefore, about fifty years old at the time of settlement on "The Ridges" in (now) Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, Pa.

His father, John, and mother, Eleanor Ross Read, were settled in Maryland at least ten years prior to Alexander's birth. The earliest of a number of deeds on record, conveying land to this John Read, is dated June 5, 1742. (Liber 6/168). It is probable that he migrated from northern Ireland shortly prior to the latter date, which is also the approximate date of his marriage to Eleanor Ross. The possibility that he and his wife were both born in America is not to be disregarded however. The Reads and Rosses were numerous in this corner of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware from the earliest settlements, making identification of separate families difficult. The avoidance of middle and adherence to simple Christian names in those days plagues all family historians. There were many John Reads and, singularly, one was living at the time in close contiguity to this John, who was also a Cecil County planter, and later a store-keeper at Christiana Bridge, Del. He became the father of George Read, the lawyer and statesman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Also singularly, this George Read married a Ross, sister of George Ross, the signer. No relationship between these and our own family line has been definitely established. There is no difficulty, however, in distinguishing between the two John Reads in the land records.

Both the Read and Ross families originated in lowland Scotland and were among those transplanted to Ulster in Ireland after the accession of James I of England, and they likewise formed later a part of the mass migration to America. County Armagh has been assigned as the locale of these Reads in Ireland.

Other children of John and Eleanor Ross Read were:

William	born	March 9, 1744 (died in childhood)
Thomas	"	April 3, 1746
John	"	June 2, 1756
Margaret	"	August 25, 1758
Ann	"	November 1, 1760.

Thomas became a Presbyterian minister after graduation (1766) at the Philadelphia Academy (now University of Pennsylvania) under Dr. Francis Alison. He was a member of New Castle Presbytery and in charge of "Old Drawyers" (Del.) and New London (Pa.) churches for a time. During the Revolutionary period he resided at Newark, Del. where he became tutor, trustee and then president of Newark Academy (now University of Delaware). Later, and to the time of his death, June 14, 1823, he officiated at the First and Second Presbyterian churches at Wilmington. He served as a chaplain during the Revolution and allusion has been made in church history to particular patriotic services rendered in aid of the movement of General Washington's army through the back country after the landing of British troops at Head of Elk preparatory to the Battle of Brandywine.

He was twice married and left a number of descendants, one of whom, Rev. Elliot Field, of Dover, Delaware was our good friend in recent years.

Of the other children of John and Eleanor Ross Read little is known beyond the following note in an old family sketch:

> "Of John, no account is given. Margaret it is supposed, died in childhood. Ann married a man named Lowe (or Love) and lived near Port Deposit, Maryland."

As to the latter, it may be noted that the will of one Samuel Love, of West Nottingham, Hundred, Cecil County, Maryland probated July 16, 1779, names a wife Rosanna and nine children and appoints said wife and "my trustie friend Alexander Read" executors. This is suggestive of a Read relationship, but does not establish it.

The Read homestead was directly adjacent to those of the Alexanders of New Munster. The site is near the cross roads village of Appleton, where until recently, the old Dysart tavern had stood since 1714. This is within two miles of the Delaware state line and about the same distance south of the present Pennsylvania line.

Alexander married about the year 1779 JEMIMA, daughter of Amos and Sarah Sharp Alexander. Amos was a son of James Alexander (Will 1778) and grandson of Joseph Alexander (Will 1730). Both Joseph and James were original settlers on the "New Munster" tract prior to 1714. AMOS ALEXANDER was a man of large affairs in the community. He had been commissioned "one of His Lordship's Justices for Cecil County" by the proprietary and became a member of the Cecil County Court at the first organization of the state government in 1777. His will dated August 26, 1779, and probated May 1, 1780 (Liber CC-3/141) disposes of several mills and plantations near the Big Elk. Jemima was one of eleven surviving children. Pecuniary bequests aggregating 10,500 pounds in addition to realty and provision for his wife, Sarah, indicate that the testator was a man of substantial wealth. His son-in-law, Alexander Read, was named as an executor. There was tragic irony in the fact that the year of Amos Alexander's death marked the climax of economic collapse in the colonies and the administration records show a valuation of fifty pounds local currency to ONE in sterling.

Amos Alexander's eldest son, Walter, who predeceased him was appointed Captain in the Fourth Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp in July 1776. It is believed that his death in 1778 resulted from service injuries. The graves of father and son, distinctly marked, are side by side in "Head of Christiana" cemetery, just east of the New Munster tract and within the Delaware line.

Alexander Read served in the Revolutionary Army as a member of Captain Richard Smith's Company of the Flying Camp, enrolled Oct. 15, 1776 (Md. Archives Vol. 18 PP. 647-8; Vol. 12 P. 352). Detailed information as to his particular services is lacking, but he was presumably engaged in the Brandywine campaign and with Washington's army at Valley Forge the fall and winter of 1777-1778.

Alexander Read's name appears in the Cecil County, Md. records as a landowner and in connection with the settlement of several estates. He owned tracts immediately adjacent to his father John Read's, land.

The will of John Read, dated 2" October, 1793, indicates his weak physical condition at the time. It was probated March 6, 1794 (Liber EE-5/334). Except for the bequest of a negro boy to his grandson, John R., son of Alexander and provision for the manumission of two other slaves, Alexander Read is made sole beneficiary and named executor. Evidently, the testator's wife, Alexander's mother, had predeceased him.

It is apparent from the record of prompt disposition of his father's estate, and of deeds conveying all his real estate holdings,-four distinct tracts, all lying within "New Munster" that Alexander Read was already fixed in his purpose at this time, 1794, of moving to the west. He apparently located himself and family in the Penn's Valley section of Mifflin, now Centre County, during that year.

There had been a continuous flow of western and southern migration from the more populous seaboard sections. Pulling up stakes and settling anew was current practice for the heads of growing families. The lure of cheap land, love of independence and adventure, the economic collapse and a native unrest all induced such moves. Scions of the original settlers of this region were already spread fan-like from western Pennsylvania to the Carolinas and the trend was increasing.

With blood relatives and former neighbors of Alexander and Jemima already located in the river valleys tributary to the Susquehanna, they had the benefit of their hospitality and experience on the journey westward. There were numerous Alexanders in the Kishicoquillas, Aughwick and Sherman Valleys. Five McKnitts, Alexander, John, James, Robert and William, were located near the foot of the Seven Mountains from about 1766. In fact, Scotch Irish stemming from the Cecil County, Md. group were scattered throughout the region. At the time Centre County was formed, in 1800, Alexander Read was listed as an inhabitant and taxpayer of Potter Township, along with Potters, Jordans, Dunalps, Fergusons, Alexanders, Arderys and many other familiar family names.

At the first session of the Centre County Court in April 1801, Alexander Read was a member of the Grand Jury. His co-members included Gen. John Patton, a Weaver, a Kerr, an Irvin and others identified with early Clearfield County history.

It was the following year, 1802, that Alexander Read established himself and family at a site on "The Ridges," in Lawrence Township (then Chinclacamoose) later known as Readsboro. The location is now marked by the Mitchell stone house and by a monument near-by erected in honor of the settler by the Susquehanna Branch of the Daughters of the Revolution. The formation of Clearfield from parts of Mifflin and Lycoming counties occurred two years later, 1804, but separate commissioners were not authorized until 1812 and separate judicial control not granted until 1822.

In 1813, the first post office in the county was established at Readsboro, with Alexander Read as postmaster appointed by Gideon Granger, Postmaster General in President Madison's administration. This office was continued until 1819 when the town of Clearfield had become a greater centre of population.

The part which Alexander Read played in the development of the new community was modest and unassertive, but he was a man of education, mature experience and moral force, naturally qualified for leadership in local affairs. His interests in later life were limited to home, family and neighborhood and he seemed content to set a good foundation for the progress of those about him, without thought of personal glory. History skimps the unrenowned, although the body and soul of a nation lives chiefly in unsung personalities. The simple annals of Clearfield County are confined to such services by Alexander Read as "first assessor named in 1806 to list inhabitants, assess property and establish a new election district." Later in 1822 when independent courts had been organized, his name appears as a member of the first petit jury. Meanwhile in the creation of churches and schools, he and members of his family were constantly active. By the time the County and Town of Clearfield reached political maturity, the name is associated with every phase of civic, educational and church history.

Alexander Read died September 11, 1826. His widow, Jemima, survived him until May 13, 1840. Both are buried in the "Owens Graveyard," about two miles east of Clearfield. Their graves are marked by a monument and are surrounded by those of others of the family, including Ross Read, grandson, and his wife, Mary Thompson Read. A few other pioneer families are also represented, including Ardery, Leonard and Orr.

CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER AND JEMIMA ALEXANDER READ

The following children were born to Alexander and Jemima Alexander Read in Cecil County, Maryland:

Eleanor	January 12, 1780 (died in infancy)
Sarah	June 23, 1781 (m. William Dunlap)
ALEXANDER, JR.,	June 27, 1783 (m. 1804 (1) Martha Jordan 1815 (2) Elizabeth Reed 1830 (3) Mary (Polly)Ferguson
Thomas	Oct. 27, 1785 (m. (1) Mary Potter Jordan (2) Peggy Ferguson
William	April 17, 1788 (died in childhood)
John Ross	July 12, 1789 (m. Mary Reed)
Rachel	April 16, 1792 (m. 1815 Alexander B. Reed)

After removal to Penn's Valley, Pa., in 1794, the following were born:

James Alexander	April 24, 1795 (m. Jane Ardery)
Amos	Jan. 15, 1798 (m. Sarah Ardery)

The three marriages above noted between READ and REED created a connection between two distinct lines that has caused some confusion. The Reeds were derived from the family of WILLIAM and REBECCA REED, originating in Northampton County, Pa., who came to Clearfield about 1813. Their eight children were:

Alexander B. Reed, who married Rachel Read, as above noted.
Elizabeth, the second wife of Alexander Read, Jr.
Mary, who married John Ross Read
James, who married Margaret Jordan
Isabella, Jane, Sally, and Polly, one or more of whom married into the Ferguson family.

There will also be noted three Jordan marriages: (1) Alexander Read, Jr., with Martha Jordan; (2) Thomas Read with Mary Potter Jordan; and (3) James Reed with Margaret Jordan, all daughters of Benjamin and Isabella Potter Jordan (of whom hereafter).

ALEXANDER B. REED, born in Lancaster County, Pa., about 1786, came to Clearfield from the vicinity of "Big Island" or Lock Haven, Clinton County, in 1811 with John Ferguson. He made his home for a time with the family of Hugh Hall. In 1815 he married Rachel Read, daughter of Alexander Read. Being a close contemporary with the younger Alex. (his brother-in-law) they were nicknamed respectively "Black Alex." (Reed) and "Red Alex." (Read) for their contrasting shades of hair. The parents of Alexander B. Reed and other members of their family followed him to Clearfield about two years later (1813).

The children of Alexander B. and Rachel (Read) Reed were:

Maria Jane, who married William Bigler
(Governor of Pennsylvania, 1851-1854; United States Senator 1856-1861) and left issue.

Henrietta Ann, b. 1820, d. 1824
Read Alexander, died in infancy
George Latimer, b. 1825, who married Sarah E. Weaver and left issue.
William Milton, b. 1830, d. 1832
Rebecca, who married John F. Weaver and left issue.

William Bigler, who married Maria Jane Reed, above named, March 23, 1836, was born in Cumberland County, Penna., in December, 1813. His parents, Jacob Bigler and Susan Dock, were of German descent. He came to Clearfield County in 1833. He engaged in publication of a primitive newspaper, the "Clearfield Democrat," supporting General Jackson. He entered the lumber business with his father-in-law, Alex. B. Reed, became a member of the State Senate in 1841, interested himself in the building and development of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and was elected Governor of the State in 1851, at the age of thirty-eight. At the end of his term in 1855 he was elected to the United States Senate, serving until 1861. By a remarkable coincidence, his own election as governor of Pennsylvania was simultaneous with the election of his elder brother John as governor of the new state of California. William Bigler's career is intimately connected with the history of the state and need not be detailed here. He died August 9, 1880.

The children of William and Maria J. Reed Bigler were: Reed, John W., William D., Edmund A., and Harry F.

JAMES REED, son of William and Rebecca Reed, m. Margaret Jordan, (daughter of Benjamin and sister of Martha and Mary Potter Jordan) and had issue:

Sinna, who m. Amos Read
William
Sarah Rachel (unmarried)
Mitchell, who m. Mary Elizabeth Read
Rebecca Jane, who m. John Goss

ALEXANDER READ, JR.

ALEXANDER READ, JR., married (1) Martha Jordan, daughter of Benjamin Jordan, a Marylander by birth, who had served in the Revolutionary War with the Northumberland County Militia and had come to Clearfield from Centre County in 1803. His wife, Isabella, the mother of Martha, was a daughter of JOHN and MARTHA POTTER, who landed at New Castle, Del., from North Ireland (County Tyrone) in 1741. Their son, James, then twelve years of age became a Major General in the Revolutionary War, after extensive services in the early Indian campaigns. John Potter was the first Sheriff of Cumberland County at its formation in 1750 and actively participated in Indian defenses and expeditions, acquiring the rank of Captain. A fuller account of the Potters is given under separate head.

Alexander Read, Jr., was a county commissioner in the years 1820-1822 and was otherwise active in local affairs. After the death of his first wife in 1814, he married, successively, Elizabeth Reed and Polly Ferguson and had children by his first two wives. He met sudden death while hunting on Clearfield Creek July 27, 1843.

Alexander Read, Jr., had by his first wife, Martha Jordan: William Ross, John Jordan and Amos. By his second wife, Elizabeth Reed: Rebecca, James and Martha. There was no issue of his third marriage with Mary (Polly) Ferguson.

ROSS READ

Ross Read, son of Alexander and Martha Jordan Read, was born at "The Ridges" in Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1807. He married Mary Thompson, daughter of Ignatius and Mary Norris Thompson, March 4, 1834. Their children were:

Eliza Ann	born March 22, 1836. (Died at age 16)
Martha Jane	born Oct. 14, 1837, m. William Cathcart, of Olanta, Clearfield County, 1859, d. 1893.
Mary Elizabeth	born July 28, 1839, m. Mitchell Reed, of Clearfield County. Removed to Nebraska c. 1880. She died c. 1910.
Frederick Betts	born June 7, 1841, m. Sue Ann Reiter, 1865.
Margaret Eleanor	born Sept. 21, 1843, m. Joseph Francis McKenrick, 1869.
Rebecca Matilda	born Aug. 29, 1846, m. Thomas Spackman, of Clearfield County, 1870, d. Jan. 1918.
Alexander Ross	born April 13, 1849, m. Sara M. McCoy, 1879.
Elmer Elliot	born Jan. 26, 1855. (Died in infancy)

Dr. Frederick Betts Read graduated at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, 1865 with degree M.D. Practiced medicine and resided at Osceola Mills, Pa. Died at his sister, M. Eleanor McKenrick's home at Ebensburg, Pa. during a visit, Sept. 29, 1914.

Alexander Ross Read graduated at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., 1873, with degree A.B. Taught school at Ebensburg, Pa., and elsewhere. Engaged in editorial work for Werner Company edition of Encyl. Britannica, Akron, Ohio. Postmaster at Akron during Wilson administration. Died November 16, 1931.

There were issue of all of the six marriages above noted.

Ross Read died at Clearfield, Pennsylvania (Reedsville, South Second Street,) September 27, 1881. Mary Thompson Read died at the home of her son-in-law, J. F. McKenrick, Walnut Street, Clearfield, December 29, 1885. Both are interred at Owens' Graveyard, a few miles from Clearfield.

The following are children of JOSEPH FRANCIS and MARGARET ELEANOR READ McKENRICK:

Paul Lossing	born March 19, 1870, m. Eva S. Gates June 9, 1898, at Flinton, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Died March 29, 1947, at Kittanning, Pennsylvania. Eva Gates McKenrick d. August 26, 1949.
Frances Read	born April 8, 1872, m. Emory Hubert Davis November 18, 1896, at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. He died January 8, 1924 at Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Lulu Jane	born August 28, 1874, m. Dudley Blanchard Lytle April 18, 1917, at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. He died at York, Nebraska, April 4, 1945.
Blanche Marie	born November 8, 1876, m. James Stuart Dick May 28, 1902, at Missoula, Montana.
Carl Ross	born July 29, 1880, m. Letitia Eleanora Damer Sandys July 25, 1903, at Lutherville, Baltimore County, Maryland.
Leo Frederick	born October 4, 1882, m. (1) Blanche Buck January 8, 1903, at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. She died October 22, 1942; m. (2) Bernice E. Shunkwiler, December 16, 1943, at Cherry Tree, Pennsylvania.
Ivan Joseph	born December 27, 1884, m. Marian Jones, October 11, 1916, at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.
Mary Elsie	born October 31, 1887, m. John Kurtz Mentzer, October 30, 1918, at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Paul and Frances were born at Curwensville, Pennsylvania; other children at Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

A sketch of Joseph Francis McKenrick, lawyer, (1845-1913) appears elsewhere in this volume. Margaret Eleanor Read McKenrick, his devoted wife and the idol and inspiration of their children, died at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1922.

Of the other children of ALEXANDER and JEMIMA ALEXANDER READ:

SARAH (b. 1781) m. William Dunlap, who came to Clearfield County from Penn's Valley about 1804.
Issue: Isaac m. Ann Jordan (daughter of Benjamin)
Alexander (no record)
Kate m. _____ McIntyre
David m. Rebecca Hagerty
John m. Martha Read (first cousins, see post)
Jemima m. William Hagerty
Eleanor m. Samuel Haddon
Sarah (no record)
Rachel m. _____ Carson
(Note: Apparently Sarah remarried after William Dunlap's death, one Morgan, and had issue. Records of the very numerous Dunlap clan are confusing. C.R.McK.

THOMAS (b. 1785) m. (1) Mary Potter Jordan; (2) Margaret (Peggy) Ferguson
Issue: Jordan, m. _____ Spackman
Potter m. Mary Crom
Josiah m. Mary Wrigley
Isabella m. William Spackman (from whom the Thomas Spackmans descend)
Jemima (unm.)
Eliza (unm.)
Louisa (unm.)

RACHEL READ (b. 1792) m. Alexander B. Reed, son of William and Rebecca Reed as previously noted.

JAMES ALEXANDER (b. 1795) m. Jane Ardery
Issue: Alexander A. (b. 1827, d. 1899) m. Isabella Clyde
Thompson m. _____ Fulton
Matthew m. Mary J. Reams
Ellen m. Lenhart Reams (removed to Iowa)

(Note: James A. Read was first teacher in the school organized in the grand jury room of the old Court House at Clearfield Town 1826. About 1830 he was teaching at the "Amos Read School House" on his brother's farm at Pine Grove. Clearfield County History.)

AMOS (b. 1798) m. Sarah Ardery
Issue: Margaret m. Benjamin Love
Stewart m. Mary Clyde
John A. m. Fanny Bloom
Alexander (bachelor)
Calvin (d. in infancy)
Samantha (d. in childhood)
(Note: The above Clydes, Isabella and Mary, were daughters of Samuel Clyde, Associate Judge, 1866-71, and granddaughters of Benjamin Hartshorn, the pioneer from Cecil County, Maryland.)

Of the other children of ALEXANDER, JR. and MARTHA JORDAN READ:

WILLIAM m. Jemima (or Jane) Ferguson.
Issue: Alexander. Soldier in Civil War. Died.
Cecil
Charles
David M. Clara Straw
Emerson m. _____ Henry (or Williams)
John F. m. Eliza Owens (sons William, Charles; daughters Cora, Lydia, Ella, Gertrude, Ethel, Maude)
James S. m. Harriet Henry
Sarah m. _____ Ross

JOHN JORDAN READ, an Associate Judge of Clearfield County, 1871-76, m. Susan Hoover.
Issue: Milton M. Eliza Askey
Martha m. L. Spalding. Removed to Iowa.
George A. m. Amanda Logan. Removed to Portland,Ore.
Hester m. Daniel Mitchell, of Lawrence Tp.
Araminta m. Samuel Praether. Removed to Oregon.
Lewis Cass. Removed to far West.
Mary m. _____ Whitelaw, McKean County, Pennsylvania.
Phoebe m. Aaron Brown. A daughter, Lulu, married a Mr. Atkin, attorney, at Seattle, Washington.

AMOS m. Sinna Reed.
Issue: Phineas
Benjamin
Frank m. Sarah Kline
Woods
Susanna m. Aaron Cathcart
Margaret m. ____ McCracken

The children of ALEXANDER, JR. and ELIZABETH REED READ were:

REBECCA m. William Merrill. Of their issue, Martha Ann m.
Augustus B. Leavy.

JAMES, died in childhood.

MARTHA m. John Dunlap.
Issue: Reed, soldier in Civil War. Died.
Hannah m. Emanuel Hunchberger
David, died young
James, bachelor, went to far West
Frederick m. Wilde Barger
Josiah m. Sadie Dugan
Reuben m. ____ (Illinois)
Ira physician in West
Rebecca m. William Cathcart (after death of his first wife, Jane, in 1893)
Ida (no record)

IGNATIUS THOMPSON

Ignatius Thompson (b. Sept. 26, 1784) whose daughter, Mary, married Ross Read, March 4, 1834, came from Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, to "The Ridges," Clearfield County, in 1810, where according to the History of Clearfield County "he made an improvement." He was already married to Mary Norris (b. July 30, 1787). Her brother, Moses Norris, accompanied them here and he became the progenitor of a numerous family.

The father of Ignatius Thompson was Peter Thompson and, according to the record of land grants and conveyances, he was located on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River, Bedford County, in 1784. He was one of the earliest settlers in the Trough Creek Valley, now Huntingdon County. There is on record in the latter county, the will of one Peter Thompson (book 2/69) dated 23 February, 1811, probated 13 March, 1811, mentioning certain children, but not Ignatius; although "to the rest of my children" he bequeathes "a French crown apiece" indicating that some are unmentioned.

This will is witnessed by William Norris and John Norris, Jr. and it is known that the Thompson and Norris families were closely associated in Huntingdon County at this period. Peter Thompson, and his antecedents were of the Roman Catholic faith - as was Ignatius. The head of this line, John Thompson, is said to have migrated from Yorkshire, England, to southern Maryland about 1680 in order to enjoy greater religious freedom.

The Norris family had apparently come to Huntingdon County from Washington County, Maryland, following the Revolution.

Mary Norris Thompson was a protestant and her children likewise. Ignatius was a Justice of the Peace and a well worn bible used by him for swearing witnesses (now in the writer's possession) contains fragmentary birth records of his family. It is a King James translation, his family bible, Douay version, being in the possession of the family of Dr. E. M. Thompson, of Curwensville, Pennsylvania.

Soon after settlement, Ignatius Thompson built a school house on his farm, and is said to have taught therein. He served as a county commissioner 1832-1834.

Following is the most complete record available of the children of Ignatius and Mary Norris Thompson:

Nancy Ann	b. 1809	m. Joseph Straw (1828)
MARY	b. 1811	m. ROSS READ (1834)
John D.	b. 1813	m. Sarah Hartsock (of Centre Country, 1837)
James	b. 1815	m. Catherine Hepburn (1843)
Martha	b. 1817	(died at age 19)
Elizabeth	b. 1819	m. Elisha Ardery
Esther	b. 1821	m. Robert Cummings (of Bellefonte, Pa.)
Josiah W.	b. 1825	m. (1) Ann Eliza Wilson (11 children) (2) Susannah Kaufman (no children)

The descendants of this stock are very numerous. Ignatius Thompson died May 1861. His will executed 18 October 1852 is recorded in Clearfield County. His widow survived, her death occurring September 15, 1872, at the age of eighty-five.

From the writer's recollection of his own grandmother, Mary Thompson Read, and others of the family, the blood strain introduced through Thompson and Norris was a refreshing and enlivening dilution of the heavy solemnity of the Read stream. A new sparkle of wit and a freer flow of humor certainly sprang from some source and I am inclined to place the credit here. Grandmother and those I knew of her kin were good company for children, young in spirit, capable of cracking a joke and of laughing out loud when the occasion arose. The trait was not common among the dour Scotch who, traditionally, took their pleasures sadly.

Uncle Josiah had a nasal twang which was funny in itself and as a guest at meals he always eased the tension with a yarn. George I. was his son (1851-1920) and one of the most likeable and cheerful characters I know. His children, Clare, Clyde and Pearl, were among our schoolmates and closest friends. Clare, the eldest near my age, was a most congenial partner in many boyhood projects. We were together at Eastman College, Poughkeepsie, New York (1895-1896) but unfortunately our ways parted after reaching adult ages. He died unmarried in 1930. The widow of Uncle James Thompson, "Aunt Katie Hepburn," lived to the age of 101, dying in 1925, one of the most notable and lovable characters in the Curwensville community. Her daughter, Samantha (Mrs. James) Mahaffey (1850-1898), was one of the best liked of our connections and took a long painful illness cheerfully. The Mahaffey boys were our boyhood contemporaries in Clearfield.

Grandfather Ross Read sold his farm properties on The Ridges in the seventies to the Spackmans and Lewises and moved to town - that is, within half a mile of Clearfield, in what was then called Reedsville (after George Latimer Reed) now South Second Street. There he built a substantial frame dwelling on a large lot next to the Reed farm facing the river (West Branch of the Susquehanna) where he and Grandmother spent their last years. I was born there, being the only one of the family with that distinction. Father and Mother, with the four elder children, were temporary occupants before moving to the Walnut Street house the following year. I thus developed a special sentiment toward the house. It still stands, having been purchased and substantially improved by my boyhood friend, William Bigler, many years ago.

I have happy memories of Grandmother's entertainment there as have all of us. She freely granted the privilege of sliding down the long smooth banister of the front staircase, of invading her pantry and cookie jar at will, of exploring the attic or playing barefoot in the sands of the river bank and wading off shore. Always sure of a cheerful welcome and the offer of a snack, we children were usually there in groups. Home restraints were off for Grandmother lacked the preceptive and disciplinary talents of our dear mother.

Grandmother's diary, kept from the time of Grandfather's illness and death in 1881 to her own last illness in December, 1885, is to me a precious record of her simple mode of life. There are daily chores, such as rhubarb pies baked, wool carding, sewing, gardening operations, a brown hen killed and roasted, the weather, floods and log drives in the river noted. Innumerable family birthdays, neighborhood deaths, current events, and church attendance are noted, but of greatest interest is the continuous roll of visitors' names. She belonged to a very numerous clan, scattered over the county, and both relatives and friends streamed into town for court sessions, the county fair, the teachers' institute, a circus, political gathering, or merely a shopping

errand, making her home headquarters for a meal or overnight. It is apparent that she loved company and preferred the part of hostess to that of guest. Later this obligation fell upon our own household and Mother, too, accepted it graciously. Our names all appear frequently in Grandmother's diary, showing the importance of children in her life. I value one entry most highly for I distinctly remember the occasion, December 15, 1885, when she writes, "Carl came home with me. He stayed all night. I mended his stockings." She tucked me in the four-poster bed - the one which I and my family have used ever since - first having placed at my feet the flatiron she had heated in the oven. Shortly thereafter she became ill, was brought to our home on Walnut Street, Clearfield, where she died December 29, 1885, just two weeks after this entry.

NORRIS

Efforts to develop the NORRIS ancestry have not been wholly satisfactory, but a southern Maryland origin, as in the case of Thompson, is strongly indicated. Records of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, definitely establish the parentage of our ancestor (gr. grandmother) MARY NORRIS THOMPSON and her brother, Moses Norris, of Clearfield County, to have been JOHN D. and ANN NORRIS, of Hopewell Township, Huntingdon County.

A petition filed by Moses Norris in the Orphans Court of the latter county in 1839 recites the following:

"In re Estate of John D. Norris.
Petition of Moses Norris.
Orphans Court, Huntingdon County, January Term 1839.

> "The Petition of MOSES NORRIS, one of the sons and heirs of JOHN D. NORRIS, late of Hopewell Township, in the County of Huntingdon and State of Pennsylvania, was read, setting forth that the said John D. Norris lately died intestate, leaving a widow named ANN and issue, fourteen children and the children of Joseph Norris, deceased, a son of deceased, to wit: Your Petitioner and MARY, intermarried with IGNATIUS THOMPSON, residing in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth, intermarried with Robert Parks; Lydia, intermarried with Robert Gill; Adam Norris, James L. Norris and Nancy Duck, all residing in Huntingdon County, Pa.; John Norris, Amos Norris, William Norris, Ruhanah, intermarried with --- Whitehouse, Jonathan Norris, and the children of Joseph Norris, a son of deceased, the number, names or ages of which are unknown, and all residing in Richland County in the State of Ohio; and Tobias Reily Norris, Thomas Larklin Norris, supposed to be residing in the neighborhood of Pittsburgh, all of said children being of full age, except the children of Joseph Norris, whose ages are unknown as aforesaid. And the said intestate died seized in his demesne as of fee, of and in several tracts of land in Hopewell Township, etc., etc."

It seems certain that the above named JOHN D. NORRIS (circa 1767-1838) was the son of JOSEPH NORRIS, who was born January 11, 1729, died March 18, 1813, and whose wife was Mary Moody Norris. Joseph Norris was a resident of Washington County, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, prior to 1785, about which time he removed to the Raystown Branch of Juniata River in Bedford (now Huntingdon) County, Pennsylvania.

This statement is based upon my examination of land and probate records of Washington County, Maryland, Bedford and Huntingdon Counties, Pennsylvania, all available local and family data and correspondence with J. M. Norris, of Aitch, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, a descendant of above Joseph Norris, through his son, Joseph Norris, in January 1941. At that time J. M. Norris was 72 years of age and in possession of early family records, though not familiar with the Ignatius Thompson-Mary Norris descent.

Facts tending to establish this line are:

Joseph Norris, (1729-1813) appears with his brother John Norris, in the "List Of Persons who took the Oath of Fidelity" before Joseph Chapline, a

magistrate of Washington County, Maryland, evidenced by his return under date 17 April 1779. (Rev. Records of Maryland, Brumbaugh, p. 14). Col. Joseph Chapline was the founder of Sharpsburg, Maryland, a prominent soldier and citizen. The Norris brothers were undoubtedly his close neighbors.

May 1, 1786, a Bill of Sale for a negro slave recorded in Washington County (D/739) executed before Joseph Chapline and John Stull, Justices of the Peace, describes Joseph Norris, vendor, as "of the County of Bedford, State of Penna."

There are also conveyances of land by Joseph Norris, 1781, 1785 and 1790, showing him to be the owner of a tract known as "Piles Delight." (Washington County records B/509, D/349, F/545). The latter is a deed from Joseph Norris to Joseph Chapline.

Lytle's History of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania (p. 325) states that Joseph and John Norris came from "the neighborhood of Hagerstown, Maryland, toward the close of the last century" and that "the Norris brothers settled on the Raystown Branch (of Juniata) and were progenitors of large and highly respectable families still resident in that township." (Penn, formerly Hopewell Twp.)

Jordan's History of Juniata Valley (Huntingdon County) repeatedly refers to pioneer settlements in this section by Marylanders. (pp. 70, 78, 79, 80).

Huntingdon County assessment rolls for 1788 show Joseph Norris 390 acres, John Norris 200 acres. Penna. Archives 3 Serv. Vol. 19 p. 501.

First Census 1790, shows as heads of families Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, John Norris and Joseph Norris; none other of this surname. In contiguity appear Peter Waggoner, George Shirley and other families with which intermarriages appear; also Peter Thompson and Samuel Thompson.

Records relating to the original John Norris are meagre. However, in 1811 "John Norris Jr." appears, with one William Norris as witnesses to Peter Thompson's will. Land records show Peter Thompson on Raystown Branch from about 1780. It is obvious that this "junior" was the son of the elder John Norris.

Probate records cited show that Joseph Norris who died intestate 18 March 1813, left two sons, Joseph and John, and eight married daughters. He had three tracts of land in Hopewell Twp. - one tract bounded by lands of John Norris. This unquestionably was the elder John, - Joseph Sr's brother, who settled alongside him about 1785.

The conclusion that our ancestor John D. Norris was the son of Joseph Norris, Sr., seems irresistible. John D. Norris died 1838 seized of several tracts of land in Hopewell Twp. His family status makes clear that he was born as early as 1767. (His daughter Mary Norris Thompson was born 1787). He had an uncle John and a first cousin, John Norris, Jr. Evidently he adopted the initial "D" for the purpose of distinction.

As another corroborative incident, the above named Mary Norris, his daughter, who married Ignatius Thompson, named her first son John D. Thompson. No middle name is known in this case either. Use of an initial letter for distinction between those having common baptismal names is not unusual, and the naming of a son for his grandfather is common practice. Here the father's name was Ignatius and the mother was of a protestant faith - a further reason for selecting her father's name.

Finally, the statements of J. M. Norris that his great-grandfather Joseph Norris came to Huntingdon County with a brother John from Maryland and located together about 12 miles southwest of the county seat, were the only Norris progenitors in that section; that he is familiar with his own line through Joseph Norris, Jr., and that Mary Norris Thompson must have come through his great uncle John's line fully support the conclusion I have reached, that John D. Norris was the son of Joseph Norris (1729-1813).

The above cited records accord with all available family data and tradition and establish our chain of descent from Joseph Norris as follows:

Joseph Norris (1729-1813) and Mary Moody m. circa 1760.

John D. Norris (c. 1767-1838) and Ann ______ m. circa 1786.

Mary Norris (1787-1872) and Ignatius Thompson (1784-1861) m. 1808.

Mary Thompson (1811-1885) and Ross Read (1807-1881) m. 1841.

Margaret Eleanor Read (1843-1922) and Joseph Francis McKenrick (1845-1913) m. 1869.

C. R. McK. May 1945

THE JORDANS

The Jordan family of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania like the Read, had its American origin in the New Munster Section of Cecil County, Maryland. It also similarly derives from Scotland. While not possible for the writer to definitely fix time and place of first arrival of this branch, it was certainly within the first half of the eighteenth century. The records of Cecil County disclose many of the name and it appears frequently in southern Maryland in other colonies north and south. Strangely, members of the Cecil County group are found closely associated with Reads, Sharps and Alexanders in probate proceedings and conveyances, without positive proof of inter-relationship with those families at that, pre-Revolutionary period.

The name Jordan may be deciphered on a number of time-worn slabs in Head of Christiana Cemetery as early as 1770 and it stands prominently graven on a modern monument in the Sharp burying ground, a few miles west.

BENJAMIN JORDAN (born about 1740) who came to the West Branch - Ridges Section of what is now Clearfield County, with his brother Hugh, in 1803, is the head-of-family connection in the Read-McKenrick line. He was a co-settler with Alexander Read, coming from the same section of Centre County (formerly Northumberland). There is every reason to believe that there was intimate connection between these families from earliest residence in Cecil County, Maryland, and although the Jordans preceded the Reads into the "west of Susquehanna" country, their paths joined again after the Revolution. The relationship became firmly established in Clearfield County when, in addition to the marriage of Benjamin Jordan's daughter Martha to Alexander Read, Jr., a second daughter, Mary Potter Jordan married Thomas Read, brother of Alexander, Jr. A third daughter, Margaret, married James, a brother of Alexander B. REED.

Hugh Jordan, Benjamin's brother, became a leader in organizational activities in Clearfield County, being one of the three original commissioners appointed in 1812 when the county assumed some degree of administrative control separate from Centre County. He was also named as an associate justice; and was one of the first elders of the Presbyterian Church at Clearfield. Jordan Township was named in his honor.

Thomas Jordan, another brother of Benjamin, established himself on a farm in Clearfield County in 1808.

The earliest ancestral record of this family now at hand is the will of THOMAS JORDAN, dated 6 February 1790; probated Sept. 1790 in Cecil County, Maryland (EE-5/243). The testator describes himself as of "Milford Hundred" Cecil County and "far advanced in years." He names his wife, Ann, daughters Elisabeth and Jean, sons THOMAS, BENJAMIN and HUGH, and a grandson Samuel "son of John Jordan, deceased." One Thomas Camble is named sole executor.

The first census of 1790 reflects importantly on this family status. ANN JORDAN appears as a head of family in North Milford Hundred, Cecil County, Maryland. Under Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, appears HUGH JORDAN and BENJAMIN JORDAN in consecutive order.

The fact that none of the male heirs mentioned in Thomas Jordan's will was residing in Maryland at the time of his death is further evidenced by the naming of one "Thomas Camble" as sole executor. One Samuel Jordan, who may or may not have been the grandson mentioned, appears as a "single freeman" in the first tax list of Clearfield County in 1806/7. It would thus appear that the family had completely migrated from the home place.

An examination of the administration account and vendue list filed September 24, 1790, reveals the interesting fact that Alexander Read was appointed an appraiser of personalty and, at the sale, or "vendue," Alexander Read bid in a desk at £5/5/0 and no Jordan other than Ann, the widow, appears to have been present.

Little difficulty arises in definitely locating BENJAMIN JORDAN our ancestor, however, as his name appears in the assessment lists of Penn's Twp., Northumberland County, Pennsylvania for 1781-2 (Pa. Arch. 3" Ser. Vol. 19 PP 451, 501). In the "History of Centre County, Pa." PP. 23-26 he is also listed in Potter Twp (then Mifflin, now Centre County) for the years 1786-90.

Going back to the Revolutionary period, we find Ensign BENJAMIN JORDAN in a list of officers Third Battalion Northumberland County militia "as of March 13, 1776 (Pa. Archives 5" Ser. Vol. 8 p. 653) under Lieut. Col. James Murray" and he is listed also on the muster roll of Capt. Cookson Long's Company of Second Battalion Northumberland Co. militia under command of Col. James Potter December 3, 1776 and "now in actual service." (Pa. Arch. Ibid p. 646). William Plunkett, Henry Antes and John Brady were well known names on this roll.

Benjamin Jordan also appears on the "Depreciation Pay List" (Pa. Arch. 5" Ser. Vol. 4, p. 369). No specific details as to military services are available except such as refer to the commands in which he was enlisted, but these are sufficient to show active and commendable participation in the campaigns on the Brandywine, at Germantown, Valley Forge and in New Jersey in the fall and winter of 1777-1778. There are various allusions to the Northumberland County militia in Linn's "Annals of Buffalo Valley" and other histories.

From Linn's "Annals of Buffalo Valley:"

> "January 3 (1777) was fought the battle at Princeton in which Colonel Potter's battalion took part." (P. 139) * * *
>
> "11th September, battle of Brandywine, Capt. John Brady badly wounded. William Boyd, his lieutenant killed, etc. * * * The twelfth was under General Wayne at Chadd's Ford. General Potter was with General Armstrong at Pyles Ford." Col. James Murray's battalion was under Potter (P. 143)."
>
> "Dec. 11, 1777, occurred the action at Guelph's Mills (near Valley Forge) in which the enemy endeavored to surprise General Potter. The second battalion, under Colonel Murray, was engaged. * * * Dec. 15, General Potter writes home, that in an action a few days previous his people behaved well, particularly the regiments of Colonel Chambers and Colonel Murray. December 31, the Council request General Potter to stay in the field during the winter, or for some time yet at least. The year

> closes gloomily enough, with the army encamped at Valley Forge. A return dated Camp in Montgomery, Philadelphia County, December 22, 1777, shows that Colonel Murray's regiment of Northumberland County Militia, was then in Major General John Armstrong's division, and numbered 226 men on the rolls."
>
> (PP 146-7)

In the later period of the war, it is well established that all the military units from that section of Pennsylvania, chiefly under the command of General James Potter were diverted to the local need of repelling Indian and Tory attacks upon the settlements clustered about the West Branch and lower valleys.

The "Great Runaway" of 1778, the Wyoming Valley massacre, of that year, and the organization of the General Sullivan expedition in 1779 are successive chapters in Pennsylvania history which indicate that the local cry for protection was well justified, even though the frontier soldiers had rallied to the eastern battlefields at the very beginning.

Benjamin Jordan, at sometime about the war period, had married Isabella Potter, daughter of Captain John Potter (1700-1757) of distinguished service in the French and Indian Wars, the first Sheriff of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (1750) and a leader in the protective measures taken against Indians in the period following Braddock's defeat (1755). An account of Captain John Potter's career and that of his illustrious son, Major General James Potter (who was, of course, Benjamin Jordan's brother-in-law) will be found herein."

Benjamin Jordan appears in the land records of the territory which became successively Cumberland, Northumberland, Mifflin and Centre Countries as a land owner in contiguity with land holdings of the Potters. An interesting and suggestive reference is made in the "History of Centre County" (Harris Twp.) P. 319 to a Jordan tract:

> "The land now owned by the venerable Robert Galbraith was a great many years ago known as the 'Banks of Jordan,' deriving its name from BENJAMIN and JOHN POTTER JORDAN, who in 1787, owned that tract, containing 165 acres. In the latter part of the same year they disposed of it to William Young (an in-law probably) for the sum of 90 pounds. During the thirteen years following it increased wonderfully in value. On the 16th day of May 1800, Young sold it to James Galbraith for 620 pounds, who settled upon it the same year."

Benjamin's son, John Potter Jordan, was bequeathed by Gen. James Potter, 250 acres of land "out of the lands I hold in the New Purchase in company with Timothy Pickering and his associates."

John Potter Jordan by his will (proved Sept. 12, 1807; Centre County A/46) describing himself as a resident of Clearfield County, orders the land thus devised "on Cowenshannock, in the County of Armstrong," sold, and names his sisters, Martha Read, Mary and Margaret, brother Thomas and his father and mother as beneficiaries.

The names of the five children of Benjamin and Isabella Potter Jordan are all confirmed by the above will. The will of Gen. James Potter, of great length (Mifflin County 1/7) names "my sister Isabella Jordan." Isabella Jordan's father, Capt. John Potter, left no will, but the administration records make reference to lands of Benjamin and Isabella Jordan.

Certain extracts from the Clearfield County History, published 1887 provide interesting sidelights on the Jordans. Quoting from page 69:

> "The entire territory embraced by the boundaries of the county was, by an order of the Quarter Sessions of Centre County, in August 1804, formed into an election district known as Chincleclamousche, and the elections were appointed by the Legislature to be held at the house of BENJAMIN JORDAN, familiarly known as 'Grand-dad Jordan'".

Its location was near the West Branch, between the present towns of Clearfield and Curwensville, almost adjacent to "The Ridges." Page 58:

> "A little further down, below Robert Askey's place, lived BENJAMIN JORDAN, about opposite Wright's nursery. Jordan was a Marylander by birth, and had served in the Revolutionary War. He came from Centre County, and there became related by marriage to General Potter. Jordan, by his large and powerful figure and military bearing, became quite a dignitary in the settlement. The greatest day in those times was 'general training', and these were held at Jordan's place. He had five children. His three daughters married, respectively, Thomas, and Alexander Read and James Reed.
>
> "Benjamin Jordan had a brother Hugh, who came here about the same time, 1803, and settled on the ridge near the place afterward known as the 'Irishtown Settlement.' Hugh Jordan was made associate judge of the county, and Jordan township was named in his honor." He also served as one of the original county commissioners 1812 to 1815.

The definite dates of death of either Benjamin or Isabella Jordan have not been obtainable, but their spans of life as well as their careers seem to parallel closely those of Alexander and Jemima Read - from about 1740 to 1820.

THE POTTERS

Our Potter family line in America is headed by JOHN and MARTHA POTTER, who came from North Ireland with John and Isabella Potter Hamilton (sister of John Potter) in 1741 "aboard the good ship 'Donegal'" landing at New Castle, Delaware, on September 25, 1741. On the same day Mrs. Hamilton died, leaving a daughter, Catherine, and an infant son, John, who died a few weeks later. The Potters and Hamiltons are said to have gone to the home of Archibald Bard (Beard) in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, upon arrival, from which Mrs. Isabella Hamilton and her infant son were buried.

Martha Potter's maiden name was probably Bard (Beard). In any event Archibald Bard and John Potter were brothers-in-law. There were probably other marital relationships with that family as well as close associations later. Traditionally, another sister of John Potter, Mary, was the wife of Thomas Poe, and their families were closely associated. Apparently Thomas and Mary Poe arrived from Ireland about the same time as the Potters and Hamiltons. The history of the Bard family is coupled closely with Potter, Poe and Hamilton as appears both in colonial records and genealogical data. The relationships are not free from confusion but have been diligently explored and recorded with all possible accuracy in G. O. Seilhamer's "Chronicle of the Bards of Carroll's Delight and their Kinship," (Chambersburg, 1908) upon the authority of which I have largely relied.

The home of the Potters had been on the banks of the river Foyle, County Tyrone, Ireland, where their son, James Potter (later Major General Potter), was born in 1729, and where presumably other of their children were born. The year 1700 would fix approximately the date of birth of both parents, John and Martha.

The remote background of the family, apparently English but settled in Ireland in the 17th Century, has had only passing attention from this compiler. The Bard history indicates that John Potter was the son of Thomas Potter, of Ballynant, County Fermanagh, Ireland; that Thomas was the son of Abraham who was the son of Capt. George Potter, an officer in Cromwell's Army, who was granted lands in County Fermanagh, Ireland, and was living in 1683.

Because of the rather extensive activities of John Potter on the Pennsylvania frontier during the French and Indian War period, and those of his son James Potter, both then and throughout the Revolution, official records such as the Pennsylvania archives throw much light on the careers of both father and son. The dearth of personal annals has been somewhat relieved by the sketch written by A. Boyd Hamilton, Esq., of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a relative, for the "History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania." (1883); by John Blair Linn in his "Annals of Buffalo Valley" (1877); and by the later publication of the above mentioned Bard family history. While all of our colonial and revolutionary history has some bearing on our frontiers, the lively region of the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys has excited special attention. Many local chronicles make particular references to the Potters and their associates. Among these are Thomas F. Gordon's "History of Pennsylvania" (1829); Day's "Historical Collections" (1843); "Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania," published under State authority in 1895; "Indian Wars of Pennsylvania," C. Hale Sipe (Harrisburg, 1929); I. Daniel Rupp's "History of

Cumberland County" (1846), and other county histories. Parkman, Fiske and other historians deal with the general scene. Paxton's "American Frontier" (1924) treats economic and social phases. Even Washington's diaries, Franklin's autobiography, and Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales are not too remote for general enlightenment.

Personal examination by the writer of land and probate records of Cumberland, Mifflin and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania, and moderately fruitful searches in other quarters have both augmented and confirmed the work of others, though the picture remains incomplete.

Little is known of John Potter's activities or domicile during the five-year period following arrival, but it is believed that he remained in the Delaware region. This belief is supported by the fact that there associations were created with the rapidly increasing group, chiefly Scotch-Irish, which also sought new lands and moved westward about the same time. His eldest son James, between his twelfth and sixteenth years, is said to have attended Dr. Francis Alison's academy at New London, Pennsylvania, which was a notable starting point for youths of kindred type. From the character and extent of his ventures following the year 1746, it may be assumed that John Potter had the requisite capital as well as physical fitness for the role of pioneer. His brief career as such indicated a capacity for leadership, unshaken courage and complete devotion to his fixed purpose. He died in 1757, which was the year following the Armstrong expedition to Kittanning and the year preceding the Forbes Expedition to Fort Duquesne, both successful in arresting Indian incursions. His widow, Martha Potter, survived until 1780.

The period to which we are restricted for details of his career is essentially that of 1746 to 1757 and chiefly from the formation of Cumberland County in 1750. Recorded correspondence and official proceedings cover sketchily at least his part in the erection and maintenance of the first line of forts for Indian defense, incidents leading to the Braddock campaign of 1755 and the series of Indian assaults on the valley settlements that followed. His own activities had by then merged with those of his son, General James Potter, who started alongside him as a junior officer and rose steadily toward high command in the Revolution.

John Potter removed west of the Susquehanna River as early as 1746 and settled in the valley of the Conococheague. This is the vicinity of present Greencastle, in what later became Antrim Township of Cumberland County, now Franklin.

The records show the original warrant of survey of his home site near Muddy Run to have been dated April 18, 1747. A survey originally made to John Hamilton in 1747 and a number of adjoining tracts were patented to John Potter in the years following, to 1755.

Thomas Poe's plantation, surveyed in March 1752, was immediately adjacent to Potter's. It is to be inferred that the three brothers-in-law, Potter, Hamilton and Poe, contemplated the Conococheague settlement together. Other names of surrounding owners are significant for their personal association with Potter and identification with historical events on the frontier. Among these are Adam Hoopes, Robert Hamilton, Thomas Brown, Jacob Snively, Capt. William Beatty, Col. James Watson, Capt. John Woods, Andrew Robison and George Latimer. Latimer was Potter's son-in-law, having married

his daughter, Margaret. Hoopes figured largely in many border activities. Thomas Brown in later life courted and married John Potter's widow Martha.

Many of these early surveys were made by John Armstrong, later General, of Carlisle, hero of Kittanning, and commander of the Pennsylvania line at Brandywine. He was then a deputy surveyor under Nicholas Scull.

The Bard family history (pp. 303 et seq.) contains plats of the John Potter and contiguous surveys, with details of the neighborhood life, transfers of property and a view of the old Potter mansion. This simple limestone structure, impressive in its day no doubt, was still standing in 1908 and then known as the oldest dwelling in the county. It was presumably built by John Potter about 1746, "was his home at the outbreak of the French and Indian War, and in it he died in 1757. During his lifetime it was a refuge for many of his neighbors flying for safety from the onslaughts of savages."

Deeds of record at Carlisle (Vol. 2 A/119 and A/147) dated March 4, 1760 and June 10, 1761, from Martha and James Potter, Administrators of John Potter, to George Latimer, refer to original patents and convey a total of about 673 acres. These and other inter-family conveyances indicate that the son (General) James Potter retained an interest in the lands. On March 31, 1762 (Vol. 1, C/21) he conveyed 253 acres and January 1, 1782 (Vol. 1, F/183) 301 acres to Humphrey Fullerton. Fullerton's ownership continued for a period of years and his mill site on Muddy Run became a landmark.

The Bard history further refers to John Potter's plantation as follows (p. 304): "Neither the extent of, nor the title to the Potter lands is clearly defined in such records as are accessible. It is sufficient for the present purpose to say that they embraced the entire sweep of country from the 'Great Road' south of Marion, extending eastward along the Antrim township line to the road from Brown's Mill, that intersects the Chambersburg and Greencastle road at the 'Gabby Farm,' and south and southwest as far as the old Fullerton Mill on Muddy Run. From the mill the original Potter lands went west and northwest to the Poe plantation. The John Potter warrant of October 9, 1750, surveyed April 13, 1754, was near the center of this extensive tract, beginning at the Poe plantation, and extending southeast to a point near the Brown's Mill graveyard, to lands of George Latimer, at the time of the John Potter survey."

In addition to the above lands in Antrim township, one warrant for which was dated October 9, 1750, Captain Potter on the same day, in conjunction with Robert Livers, obtained warrant for a large tract at the head of Antietam in the South Mountain near Mont Alto. This was near the present Adams County line and the "Carroll's Delight" tract upon which the Bard family settled.

References to the extensive land acquisitions of Captain John Potter and his son James, the General, are most important, in the writer's view, for the fixing of locations and explaining neighborhood associations. Every examiner of our colonial records must be amazed at the degree to which such factors as racial congeniality, close contiguity and common problems combined to create, in a sense, "one large family." Intermarriages within the group cemented the relationships, while economic pressures spread the progeny far and wide. After a century or two we may discover the common nativity of this countless host with natural surprise.

In the list of "Officers of the Associated Regiment of Lancaster County over the River Susquehanna for the Years 1747-8" (recorded in Pa. Archives 2d series Vol. 2, p. 511) JOHN POTTER is named as a Lieutenant under Colonel Benjamin Chambers. Other officers were Robert Dunning, Lt. Colonel; William Maxwell, Major; George Brown, Captain.

"Associated" regiments were an unique form of voluntary militia, conceived it is said by Benjamin Franklin for protection of the frontiers. What a peace-minded Quaker Assembly had failed to provide, the provincials supplied. They armed themselves and appointed their own officers. Some private contributions were made and lotteries resorted to for certain fortification projects. A quaint allusion to this militia scheme is quoted from "Watson's Annals" (p. 273):

> "The regiments of volunteers, formed in the winter of 1747-8, were called 'Association Regiments' - to form 13 companies in Philadelphia and as many in the counties as 100 companies in all; all being understood as done by the voluntary contrivance of the people, without the legislative sanction, which was still too much under the spirit and influence of the Friends' Meeting to come into such a measure by any public sanction of the Legislature. Thus showing the majorities of Friends that still ruled there, and their firmer dependence on the 'arm of the Lord' and the 'Great Watcher of Israel.'"

Most of the officers and members of Colonel Chambers' regiment may be definitely identified as settlers who figured in the civic and military history of this area. Self interest thus merged with responsibility to the province and regard for community welfare.

In the year 1750 the new county of Cumberland was formed, embracing the entire province west of the Susquehanna, with the exception of York County, formed in 1749. The latter then included only the present counties of York and Adams.

John Potter was commissioned Sheriff of Cumberland upon its erection. His neighbor Adam Hoopes became Coroner. Hans (Hance) Hamilton, Potter's close associate later and a member of the related Hamilton clan had been commissioned Sheriff of York County in 1749.

While not pertinent here, it may be noted that references are made elsewhere in this family history to the fact that Walter Sharp, who married Kezia Alexander, and were both members of antecedent families, was appointed a Commissioner of York County at its organization in 1749. References have also been made to the early settlements on Marsh Creek in York, now Adams County, by groups derived largely from the Newcastle-Cecil County area. These settlers constituted the chief nucleus for the formation of York County. Their habitat was the township of "Hamilton's Ban," named for an ancestral home of the Hamiltons in Ireland. This was within the "Carroll's Delight" tract, the situs of Bard settlements and the scene of certain Indian incidents hereinafter recounted. That Adams County is a center of McKenrick and other family associations is also referred to elsewhere.

The formal commission of John Potter as Sheriff is dated October 6, 1750 (Pa. Col. Records, Vol. 5, p. 467) but it is apparent that he officiated from the first organization of the County in March 1750 (see Rupp's History,

p. 385). He was again commissioned as Sheriff in 1754 and 1755 (Pa. Col. Rec. Vol. 6, pp. 144, 638). Benjamin Chambers, Robert Dunning and William Maxwell, all "Associated" officers above mentioned, were among the first "Justices of the Common Pleas" appointed. Others were Samuel Smith, George Croghan, Mathew Dill, William Trout, Hermanus Alricks, John Miller, Robert Chambers, John Finley and Thomas Wilson, nearly all of whom became prominent in subsequent history of the region.

From this period Sheriff Potter is frequently referred to as Captain Potter and evidently he combined civil with military authority. This is true also as to Hance (Hans) Hamilton, Sheriff of York County, who appears on the Cumberland County scene as Captain Hamilton. Potter's commission as Captain appears in a "List of Officers in the Province Pay" under date February 17, 1756, in Penna. Archives 2 Series, Vol. 2, p. 533.

The dignity and importance attached to the office of sheriff in England applied with new emphasis to the American frontier. As the only peace officer within reach when neighborhood strife or public calamity arose, summary action was demanded of him, whether single-handed or by posse comitatus. The taxable population of the county at this time is stated as 807, but increasing rapidly and spreading widely. To devise protective measures quickly upon alarm from any quarter and hold the rough and ready populace within decent bounds required wit and courage as well as executive ability.

One of the first official duties the new sheriff was called on to perform (before the date of his formal commission), and which is a matter of some moment in our frontier history, is described in connection with George Croghan, a prominent pioneer (Hist. of Col. Henry Bouquet, pp. 55-57). In August 1749 Croghan was sent west by Gov. Hamilton in consequence of rumors of the French approaching the Ohio and to secure the Indians in the English interest. He reached Logstown (on the Ohio) soon after Celeron with the French troops had left. The increasing intrusion of white settlers on the unpurchased lands of the Indians west of the Susquehanna in spite of the Governor's proclamation and the threats of the Indians themselves, determined the Governor to expel them by force. Accordingly, in May 1750, a large company headed by Secretary Peters, George Croghan, five other magistrates and SHERIFF OF THE NEW COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND visited the settlers on the Big Juniata, Shermans Creek, the Path Valley, Big Cove, Aughwick Creek and other places, removed their household goods and burned the log cabins. Doubltess by these drastic measures they prevented an Indian war. The report states that "at Augwick they burnt the cabin of one Carlton, another unfinished one, and three were burnt in the Big Cove." The name of "Burnt Cabins" is thus derived from this affair (Frontier Forts 1/572). Secretary Peters' reports to Gov. Hamilton detail the extensive efforts made to curb these unauthorized settlements, some of which were claimed to be under the jurisdiction of Maryland and had arisen through the long continued boundary dispute with the Pennsylvania proprietaries. (See Col. Rec., V., pp. 440-445; Rupp's History, pp. 379-384).

The first identification of John Potter with the military preparations being made in advance of the Braddock expedition is contained in a letter from William Buchanan at Carlisle 15 June 1755 to Richard Peters (Pa. Col. Records, Vol. 6, p. 435) stating:

> "I sent him (Samuel Smith, Esq.) 90 pounds (of provisions) this morning per MR. POTTER, which was all that remained in my hands."

A letter from Edward Shippen to William Allen from Shippensburg 30 June 1755 (Pa. Arch. 1" Ser., Vol. 2, pp. 362-363) states:

> "John Potter ye Sheriff tells me that his son and a few more ought to be set off tomorrow with 40 head of cattle to support ye road cutters and Capt. Hoge's men; but that the people are so alarmed about ye Indians that he cannot think it safe to venture them out, unless he can intercede with 20 or 30 of his neighbors to guard them. Potter is going to Carlisle today" (to attend an official sale) etc.

The disastrous defeat of Braddock's troops occurred on the 9th July and an onslaught of the emboldened Indians against the eastern settlements was immediately imminent.

A letter from Hermanus Alricks at Carlisle to Governor Morris, July 22, 1755 (Pa. Arch. 1" Ser. Vol. 2, p. 383) contains one of the first authentic reports of the battle:

> "This morning our Sheriff, Mr. Potter, came to this town. He informs me that the French and Indians had cast an intrenchment across the road before our army, which they discovered not until they came close upon it. From thence on both sides of the road the enemy kept a constant fire on them, our army being so confused they could not fight and they would not be admitted by the General or Sr. John St. Clair to break through their ranks or take behind trees. Gen. Braddock had two horses shot under him, a third wounded when he received his wound (of which he has since died).
>
> "Sr. John St. Clair dangerously wounded but it is hoped he will recover; Sr. Peter Halket and his son, a great many other officers and a thousand men killed," etc.

On the 30th of October, 1755, a meeting was called by Sheriff John Potter at the house of Edward Shippen in Shippensburg (then the county seat) at which it was resolved to build FIVE LARGE FORTS. This meeting is referred to frequently in history as the origin of a plan eventually resulting in chains of forts extending completely across the Pennsylvania frontier from the northeastern corner at the New York line along the Blue Mountains through the Cumberland and Juniata valleys, as well as along the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna. The centres of the latter series were Fort Augusta (now Sunbury), and Fort Hunter (near Harris' Ferry). The locations of the particular five forts proposed at the above meeting were "Carlisle, Shippensburg, Col. Chambers, Mr. Steel's meeting house (Rev. and Capt. John Steel) and at William Allison, Esq." (Frontier Forts, Vol. 1, p. 553, etc.) Other forts established in the vicinity within a year following, 1756, were Shirley, Croghan, Davis, Loudoun, McCord, McDowell, Lyttleton, Granville and Patterson.

Immediately thereafter, in November 1755, the Colonial Records contain distressful reports of Indian raids and burnings in the "Great Cove," the Connolloways" and the Conococheague or Path Valley.

Adam Hoopes' letter to Governor Morris of November 3, 1755 (Col. Records, 1" Ser., Vol. 2, p. 462) reporting on the attacks and hasty defense measures taken, states:

> "John Potter and myself sent expresses through our neighborhood, which induced many to meet with us at John McDowell's mill where I, with many others had the unhappy prospect to see the smoke of two houses set on fire by the Indians, viz: Matthew Patton's and Mesach James' houses, where their cattle were shot down and horses standing bleeding with Indian arrows in them * * *. The Rev. Mr. Steel, Esq. and several others with us to the number of about one hundred went in quest of the Indians, without success," etc.

The letter written by John Potter, Sheriff, dated at "Conogochege" to Richard Peters, Esq., under same date, 3" November 1755 (Col. Rec., Vol. 6, p. 673) presents a vivid and gruesome view of this incident:

> "Mr. Peters:
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> Sir: This comes ye melancholy account of the ruin of the Great Cove which is reduced to ashes and numbers of the inhabitants murdered and taken captives on Saturday last about 3 of the clock in the afternoon. I received intelligence in conjunction with Mr. Adam Hoopes and sent immediately and appointed our neighbors to meet at McDowell's. On Sunday morning I was not there six minutes till we observed about a mile and a half distant one Matthew Patton's house and barn in flames, on which we set off with about 40 men, though there was at least 160 there. Our old officers hid themselves for (ought as I know) to have their scalps until afternoon when danger was over; we went to Patton's with a seeming Resolution and Courage but found no Indians there, on which we advanced to a rising ground, where we immediately discovered another house and barn on fire belonging to Mesach James about one mile up the creek from Thomas Bar's; we set off directly for that place but they had gone up the creek to another plantation left by one widow Jordan the day before, but had unhappily gone back that morning with a young woman, daughter to one William Clark, for some milk for children, and both were taken captives but neither house nor barn hurt. I have heard of no more burnt in that Valley, yet which makes me believe they have gone off for sometime, but I much fear they will return before we are prepared for them, for it was 3 of the clock in the afternoon before a Recruit came of about 60 men, then we held council whether to pursue up the valley all night or return to McDowell's, the former of which I and Mr. Hoopes and some others plead for but could not obtain without putting it to votes, which done we were outvoted by a considerable number, upon which I and my company was left by them that night and came home, for I will not guard a man that will not fight when called in so imminent manner, for there was not 6 of these men that would consent to go in pursuit of the Indians.

> "I am much afraid that Juniata, Tuscarora and Sherman's Valley hath suffered. There is two-thirds the Inhabitants of this valley who hath already fled, leaving their plantations, & without speedy succor be granted I am of opinion this county will be left desolate without Inhabitant. Last night I had a family of upwards of an hundred women and children who fled for succor. You cannot form no just Idea of the distressed & distracted condition of our inhabitants unless your eyes seen and your ears heard their crys. I am of opinion it is not in the power of our representatives to meet in assembly at this time. If our assembly will give us an additional supply of arms and ammunition, the latter of which is most wanted, I could wish it were put into the hands of such persons as would go out upon Scouts after the Indians rather than the supply of the Forts.
>
> "I am Sir Your Most Obedient very humble Servant
>
> John Potter
> Sheriff
>
> "Sr: Please to call upon the Assembly for money due to me.
>
> J. P."

The postscript tersely reflects the well known parsimony of the Pennsylvania Assembly in the matter of money and supplies for the frontier.

A few days later (November 18th) Sheriff Potter visited Philadelphia; acting on the principle that things wanted must be gone after. The visit is reported on P. 706 of Vol. 6 Colonial Records, as follows:

> "Mr. Potter, the Sheriff of Cumberland County being in town was sent for and desired to give an account of the upper part of that county in which the Indians had committed their late ravages, and he said that 27 plantations were burnt and a great quantity of cattle killed, that a woman of 93 years was found lying with her breast tore off and a stake through her body; that of 93 families which were settled in the two Coves and the Conolloways, 47 were either killed or taken and the rest deserted."

Whether the matter of "pay" was pressed does not appear but the real purpose of Sheriff Potter's visit to the seat of government was, in a measure at least, accomplished. Under date November 25, 1755, there is (Pa. Arch. 2" Ser. Vol. 2, p. 695) an "account of Arms and Ammunitions and to whom delivered," assigning

> "To James Burd, Adam Hoopes, JOHN POTTER and Joseph Armstrong
> 4 Swivel guns
> 5 quarter casks powder
> 5 hundredweight of lead
> 2 quarter casks power
> 2 hundredweight of lead
> for (Forts) Chambers and McDowell Mills."

A number of things happened contemporaneously with Sheriff Potter's visit to Philadelphia that bear upon the Cumberland County scene. Evidently he argued the critical needs of the frontier with whomever gave ear, including the Mayor. Coincidental with his visit, the minutes of City Council proceedings for November 24, 1755 (quoted from Watson's Annals, p. 82) state:

> "W. Plumstead, Mayor, produced the draught of a Remonstrance proposed to be sent from this Board to the Assembly of this Province on occasion of the extreme distress brought upon the people by the inroads of our Indian enemies and the cruel murders and devastations committed by them, and earnestly requesting the Assembly to take some speedy and effectual measures for the defense of the inhabitants by raising a sum of money and passing a reasonable law for a well regulated militia."

The Assembly was at the moment cogitating the money and militia bills under the lash of Governor Morris and Dr. Franklin. The spreading Indian scare and public clamor for protection had reached Philadelphia. The main obstacles to passage of the bills were the Quaker aversion to either war chests or militia service and the Proprietors' refusal to subject their lands to taxation. Capping the climax of heated discussion came the news of the atrocious assault on the Moravian settlement of Gnadenhutten in Northampton County, commencing the night of November 24th. With the surviving inhabitants in full flight and panic seizing Philadelphia, the 25th of November, 1755, became a memorable day in history. Dispute gave way to the sense of common danger. The Assembly passed the militia act and favorably reported the money bill upon an assurance by Morris that the proprietors would contribute five thousand pounds "as a gift, not as a tax." The Quakers, being free of compulsion to bear arms, would not obstruct whatever protection others might provide for their benefit. (NOTE: This legislation was not final as to the proprietors' commitment. Approval of the bill by the Privy Council was delayed until long after Franklin's arrival in London in July 1757. The story is told in the final chapter of his Autobiography of stormy interviews with the Penns and their lawyers, arguments before the Council and the aid rendered by Lord Mansfield toward persuasion of the proprietors that they should bear a fair share of taxes in common with other landowners.)

Franklin, having been a chief sponsor of the money bill voting sixty thousand pounds "for the King's use" was appointed a commissioner for disposing of it. He had also drawn the bill for establishing and disciplining a voluntary militia. His record as a collector of supplies for the Braddock campaign was well known and though never trained to soldiery he was thought eminently suitable for field command in this emergency. He was commissioned Colonel and the duty of raising troops and building a line of forts for defense of the frontier now under attack was thrust upon him. He undertook this military business though he did not conceive himself well qualified for it. He tells the story of this Bethlehem expedition in the winter of 1756-7 in captivating manner with many interesting sidelights on frontier life. After assembling five hundred and sixty men at Bethlehem, which he found amply fortified, he proceeded to the scene of desolation at Gnadenhutten, where he thought a fort immediately necessary but first proceeded with "more effectual burial of the dead." Finding many available trees and axemen, he commenced the building of Fort Allen, one of the chain extending diagonally across the province from the Delaware to the Potomac. He met and recognized the superior skill of the New England officer, Colonel Clapham "Experienced in

Indian War" and "much more fit to command than myself," who was later to erect forts on the Susquehanna, including Augusta. He fraternized freely with surrounding farmers and would doubtless have done the same with Indians, had he met any. Engaging in dissertations with Bishop Spangenburg and Chaplain Beatty, observing Moravian customs, commenting upon the habits of soldiers and the processes applied to fort construction, the talented Franklin clearly betrays the mind of philosopher and diplomat rather than military leader. He acknowledges a sense of relief in being called back to the Assembly and discharged of field duties. Soon thereafter Franklin was sent as commissioner to London to apply his talents of persuasion and conciliation upon the Privy Council and the Penns for the good of the province. How he penetrated the entanglements of red tape and stormed the peaks of statecraft with but slight success, is another of his delectable stories.

Franklin's career in diplomacy, he admits, commenced with attendance at the Carlisle conference in October 1753. Present were Scaroudy, spökesman for the Six Nations, George Croghan, and Andrew Montour, with a picturesque assembly of Indians and Scouts, as well as Assemblyman Isaac Norris, Provincial Secretary, Richard Peters, "members of the Assembly from Cumberland County and magistrates, gentlemen and freeholders of that frontier." (Van Doren's "Franklin," p. 207; Pa. Col. Records, Vol. 5, pp. 665-686, etc.) Although unnamed Sheriff Potter was unquestionably present, and our special interest therefore attaches to this occasion.

There were marked activities toward defense preparations at this moment with a most pressing need of them. It may or not have been due to Captain Potter's verbal portrayal of the predicament of the frontier, that Governor Morris made a personal visit to the line of fortifications in December 1755 and January 1756. On his return to Philadelphia, immediate steps were taken to complete, garrison and equip all the forts west of the Susquehanna.

Innumerable revolting incidents are recounted in local annals during February 1756. The house of the widow Coxe, near McDowell's Mill, was burned, her two sons, Richard and John, with one John Craig, were carried off. In an attack at Thomas Barr's in Peters Township, Barr's house was burned, his son and others slain. Quoting briefly from Gordon's History of Pennsylvania, p. 616, on the events of February 29, 1756:

> "Inhabitants collected at Fort McDowell briskly and effectively exchanged fire with the Indians. Six on horseback being closely pressed abandoned their horses and fled to the woods, leaving behind them a woman they had taken the day before near the Potomac. * * * Another party under Mr. (Capt.) Potter followed the trail of two companies of the enemy until baffled in the pursuit by the falling snow. These companies belonged to Shingas and Jacobs. In this foray they killed four whites and made prisoners of a like number."

It was probably the news of such atrocities that caused Governor Morris to write Captain Potter as follows, under date March 25, 1756 (Pa. Col. Rec. Vol. 7, p. 602) requesting that fort construction give way to routing the invaders:

> "Sir:
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> Being informed that you have not yet begun the fort I instructed you to build some time ago I think it necessary to order that that work be postponed for the present, and that you employ the company under your command in the manner you judge most for the safety of the Inhabitants upon the frontiers of Peters and Hamilton townships, taking such posts there, erecting such stockades and ordering such patriots as you shall think best till you have my further orders. I am your Humble Servant
>
> R. H. M.

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> "To John Potter, Esq., Captain of a company of Foot in the pay of the Province."

About the same time (March 28, 1756), Governor Morris appointed Elisha Salter, Esq. "Commissary General for the Province" and sent him into Cumberland County to muster and examine troops, examine muster rolls, inspect arms, accoutrements, provisions, etc. The instructions given Salter (ibid. p. 604) stated that he should "proceed to McDowell's Mills (20 miles west of Shippensburg) which stands upon the new road to the Allegheny, where you will find some men under the command of JOHN POTTER, ESQ., who has been sometime raising a company for the defense of the frontiers of that county to whom you are to deliver the orders herewith," etc.

These visitations of the Commissary are associated with the chronic clamor of troops for pay and the dearth of funds available. There seemed never enough to go around. A letter of Commissary Young to Governor Morris written July 18, 1756, while visiting the chain of forts is illustrative (Rupp. p. 321). He reports the people at Shamokin (Fort Augusta) "extremely uneasy for their pay" and further

> "The Colonel (Clapham) is highly displeased. I had not orders to pay him for his Captain's Commission, likewise that I brought him no money to pay the battoe men; he talks loudly of his ill usage and threatens to leave the service, etc."

Colonel Clapham was at this time engaged in building Fort Augusta, the major defense project of the Susquehanna region, having completed Fort Halifax at the mouth of Armstrong's Creek. The moving of men and material up the river was a difficult job but more trying were the mutinous threats of his men for want of pay. (The detailed story of Fort Augusta may be found in Meginness' "Otzinachson, History of the West Branch." Col. Clapham resigned command to Col. James Burd in December 1756. Burd's "Diary" continues the story.)

The Commissary made payments "on account" and four days later (July 22, 1756) writes from Carlisle describing the difficulty of maintaining a soldiery without funds, and adds:

> "Capt. Potter was here yesterday. I paid him £100 of the money I had left from Colonel Clapham's regiment."

This was harvest season and protection was demanded not only at the forts but for the reapers at work in scattered valley settlements.

The Indian massacres during the summer of 1756 culminated with the assault on Fort Granville (near Lewistown) on July 30th. During the absence of Captain Ward and men from the garrison performing the service of protecting reapers in Sherman's Valley, the Indians led by Chiefs Jacobs and Shingas (and inspired by French influence) burned and plundered the fort, killing the commanding officer, Lieut. Armstrong (a brother of Col. John Armstrong), one private and taking captive twenty-two men, three women and a number of children. A great flight of residents easterly followed. A petition from the inhabitants of York County to the Council at this time for increased defense aid, stated that "the County of Cumberland is mostly evacuated and part of this county has become the frontier." In the beginning of the year 1755, it was estimated that there were three thousand men capable of bearing arms west of the Susquehanna. A twelve-month later and there were not a hundred.

Not only to avenge this outrage, but to redeem abandoned settlements and relieve the terror prevailing throughout the whole region west of the Susquehanna, Col. John Armstrong immediately planned to carry the war to "Captain" Jacobs' own doorstep - the Indian town of Kittanning. The approval of this plan by Governor Morris constituted one of his last official acts before resigning in favor of William Denny in August 1756. A review of his administration reflects a high purpose of maintaining the security of the province, protecting the proprietary interest and dealing with a recalcitrant assembly. That uncontrollable events and opposing views brought a sense of frustration is apparent.

At a council held at Philadelphia 27 Aug. 1756 (Pa. Col. Rec., Vol. 7, P. 230):

> "Mr. Morris informed the Council that he had concerted an expedition against it (town of Kittanning) to be conducted by Col. John Armstrong, who was to have under his command the companies under Capt. Hance Hamilton, Capt. Hugh Mercer, Capt. Edward Ward and CAPT. JOHN POTTER, and to engage what volunteers he could besides that the affair was to be kept as secret as possible and the officers and men directed to march to Fort Shirley and from thence to set out for the expedition."

By this time Col. Armstrong reports men already marching from McDowell's to Fort Shirley. He left Ft. Shirley with about 300 men August 30. By Sept. 8th the town of Kittanning was completely destroyed and its occupants killed or dispersed. The success of the Armstrong expedition and its effect in relieving the Indian danger and the terror of inhabitants in the eastern valleys is well known.

The active participation of Captain John Potter in all the preparatory measures is indicated. While the record leaves some uncertainty whether he personally joined in the march or remained behind in charge of fort garrisons, his company is listed with the expeditionary force. Of course the forts under his command could not be unmanned, even temporarily, as they provided the only refuge for women and children when flight from home was necessary. His son, Ensign James Potter, did accompany the expedition and suffered injury in the fighting. Colonel Armstrong's report of the

destruction of Kittanning (Pa. Archives, Vol. 2, pp. 767-775) and list of killed, wounded and missing included therewith, shows:

"Captain John Potter's Company:
Wounded, Ensign James Potter," etc.
(Also see Sipe "Indian Wars," p. 313)

The ensuing months mark a more placid period in Cumberland County but the lull was temporary. There were sporadic if fewer organized attacks and the militia were constantly on the alert. It was only after the Forbes expedition to Duquesne and the treaty of Easton in 1758 that life in these parts became reasonably secure. The renewed depredations during the Pontiac War of 1763, the Bouquet campaign of that period and the havoc wrought by Tory-incited Indians during the Revolution are subsequent chapters. These followed Captain John Potter's lifetime, but are intimately associated with the career of his son, General James Potter.

The next documentary record concerning Captain John Potter is found in a letter from George Croghan, at Fort Loudon, to Col. John Armstrong, June 28, 1757 (Col. Rec., Vol. 7, p. 630):

> "This morning a man came from Fort Lyttleton and brought a letter from Lieut. Potter to his FATHER here," etc.

indicating his presence at Fort Loudon at this time. Croghan adds that Indian tracks were found near the Juniata and that troops were "to march from Ft. Lyttleton this morning in quest of the enemy," etc.

At a council held at Philadelphia the 13 July 1757 (ibid p. 637)

> "The resignation of the Justices of Cumberland County was again considered, and the following list of persons agreed to as proper to be put into a new commission *** JOHN POTTER, ESQ., *** of the County of Cumberland."

Thus the office of Justice was conferred upon him in addition to other responsibilities, but this tenure was brief. John Potter died shortly thereafter, at the age of fifty-seven. The exact date of and the circumstances surrounding his death are unascertainable. The records of Cumberland County, however, show that letters of administration were granted on his estate to his widow, Martha, and son, James Potter, on October 2, 1757 (Book A/22).

Seilhamer's history of the Bard family and kinship previously cited, contains this note, following John Potter's death in 1757 (p. 306):

> "When he was at rest, in an unmarked grave in Brown's Mill graveyard to this house (the Potter homestead) came the venerable Thomas Brown, the ancestor of the Browns of Brown's Mill, intent upon courting the Widow Potter, and from this house he married her in 1760. After the Widow Potter became Mrs. Martha Brown, Captain Potter's eldest son, James, afterwards General James Potter, made the house his home, with his unmarried sisters and his cousin, Katherine Hamilton, until 1767, when he removed to Penn's Valley, in what is now Centre County. It was early in this latter period, 1760-67, that young James Chambers, the eldest son of Colonel Benjamin Chambers, the founder of Chambersburg, came to the Potter home courting Miss Hamilton, the orphan daughter of John Hamilton and Isabella Potter, whom he made his wife. So, it will be seen that the old Potter homestead has its tales of love as well as war.

> It is a house worthy in every way of its history. It is not an imposing structure, but in its day it was no doubt regarded as a house of more than ordinary proportions. It is only a story and a half in height and was built of limestone, rudely dressed. It has a peaked roof and there is a window in the south gable. The walls are now cracked and seamed in many places, and show signs all over them of the destroying hand of time for more than a century and a half, but the building may still be regarded as in a good state of preservation."

Evidently the provision in General Potter's will for erecting a tomb stone over his father's grave was not observed.

The writer has visited the site of Brown's Mill on Muddy Creek as well as the old graveyard, three miles north of Greencastle, Pennsylvania. He fully intends to find the site and whatever remains of the old Potter home in that vicinity with the aid of the description and illustration in the Bard book. Others with like intent may be similarly aided by the above note.

CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND MARTHA POTTER

The children of John and Martha Potter in their probable order of age were:

1. James (General Potter), born 1729, of whom hereafter.
2. Thomas (killed by the Indians April 13, 1758), of whom hereafter.
3. Samuel, who m. his cousin Susanna Poe, dau. of Thomas and Mary (Potter) Poe. Settled in Westmoreland Co., Pa. Died 1811 (See Will of Thomas Poe, 1770 Cumberland Co.)
4. Margaret, m. George Latimer, who d. Westmoreland Co., Pa., 1793. Was settled on Muddy Run adjacent to Capt. Potter c. 1754. Had eight issue including George, who m. Margaret Cathcart, sister of first wife of Gen. James Potter. Died 1806.
5. Annas m. Alexander Young, who d. 1790. He served with Capt. James Poe's company 1777. Had son James.
6. Catharine, m. James Carothers, who d. Westmoreland Co., Pa., 1801. Six issue. Josiah v. Thompson of Uniontown was a descendant of this marriage.
7. Mary, m. James Beard, and had a son, James Potter Beard.
8. Hannah, m. (1) John McMillan; (2) Thomas Robinson. Lived Westmoreland Co., Pa. Left descendants.
9. ISABELLA, m. BENJAMIN JORDAN (See Jordan herein). Issue, sons John Potter and Thomas. Daughters Martha (who m. Alexander Read, Jr.), Mary (who m. Thomas Read) and Margaret (who m. James Reed). Born circa 1742.

The above is based on all available data, including Will of General James Potter, Potter biography by A. Boyd Hamilton in History of Centre County, Pennsylvania and "The Bard Family and Bard Kinship" by G. O. Seilhamer. The latter suggests that Captain John Potter was twice married, based upon Irish research, and states, "If this assumption is correct, his first wife was Catharine Crozier, daughter of John Crozier, of Mulleghmon, County Fermanagh, Ireland. In that case the marriage was in 1727." I have abandoned this conjecture in view of slight evidential support and the fact that our descent through Isabella unquestionably derives from John Potter's marriage with Martha Beard, or Bard.

The extensive collateral descents appearing in the Bard history and other works cited are of interest but will not be covered here in detail. Many of these supporting authorities are in the writer's possession.

THOMAS POTTER

The murder of Thomas Potter by the Indians, April 13, 1758, is described in the "Narrative of Richard Bard," related by his son Judge Archibald Bard, (1765-1832), of Franklin County, Pennsylvania and quoted in Day's "Historical Collections," (Adams County) P. 62 and in "Frontier Forts" Vol. 1, P. 544. The scene was near Fort McCord in the Conococheague Valley along the base of South Mountain, where Bard resided. He, with his wife, an infant child, and a number of others were taken captive at the same time. Bard in his narrative refers to Thomas Potter as Lieutenant Potter and his cousin. The Indians, after securing the prisoners,

> "* * * took all the valuable effects out of the house and set fire to the mill * * *. At the distance of about 70 rods from the house, contrary to all their promises, they put to death THOMAS POTTER, and having proceeded on the mountain about three or four miles, one of the Indians sunk the spear of his tomahawk into the breast of the small child, and after repeated blows, scalped it. * * *

Bard continues, after describing clashes with the party of white men in pursuit:

> "Having been thus hurried, they reached the top of Tuscarora Mountain, and all had set down to rest. When an Indian, without any previous warning, sunk a tomahawk into the forehead of Samuel Hunter, who was seated by my father, and by repeated blows put an end to his existence * * *.

The journey continued into the Ohio country, where Daniel McManiny, another of the captives, was tortured and killed. Bard soon thereafter made his escape, suffered untold hardships during a nine days' journey back to Fort Lyttleton. He then devoted all his energies toward locating and rescuing his wife. After a captivity of two years and five months she was found at Shamokin (Sunbury) on the Susquehanna and they were reunited.

This narrative, together with that covering the murder of Schoolmaster Brown and ten of his pupils near Greencastle, Pennsylvania, July 26, 1764, appear in "Incidents of Border Life" and "Loudon's Narrative," and are referred to in Parkman's "Pontiac War." The schoolhouse tragedy was described by John McCullough, the one boy who escaped, and he refers to Captain James Potter as leader of the pursuit party. The "Bard Chronicles" (pp. 159-200) sets forth the Bard captivity and Potter murder in greatest detail..

These particular narrations, out of innumerable tales of Indian outrages in this period and in the same general locale are cited because of the Potter connection therewith.

GENERAL JAMES POTTER

The career of General James Potter seems in a peculiar sense a prolongation of the life of his father with whom his interests and activities were so closely associated. While collateral to the immediate line followed herein, the family story would seem incomplete without some detailed reference to the son's career.

He was born, as previously stated, in 1729, on the banks of the River Foyle, in County Tyrone, Ireland, and was, therefore, twelve years of age when his parents John and Martha Potter arrived at New Castle, Delaware, in 1741. His active military and official services covered at least thirty years in the most crucial period of our national life.

While there are accessible records, the Pennsylvania Archives, certain County and Revolutionary histories and works such as John Marshall's "Life of Washington" which mark certain services, and include some of his correspondence, it is unfortunate that no complete biography exists.

Linn's "Annals of Buffalo Valley" carries a chronological record of his major services and "Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania" describes many of his activities in frontier defense. The History of Centre County (Linn. 1883) contains about all that is known of his private life.

In quoting at length a letter of General George Washington to General Potter dated 31 October 1777, directing plans to cut off the enemy's supply of flour from mills around Chester and Wilmington, Linn in his Annals (1877) states:

> "His correspondence, embracing letters from all the principal characters in the Revolution, from General Washington to Lady Harriet Ackland, after being many years carefully preserved in his garret, were scattered to the four winds, in the misfortune of some of his descendants, some twenty years ago."

According to the Bard Chronicles (p. 313) General Potter's voluminous correspondence with Washington was printed in the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography" 1895-97.

His schooling was under Dr. Francis Alison at New London, Pennsylvania, near New Castle and the "New Munster" tract. The authority for this statement is a biographical sketch from "Snyder County Annals" and on file with the North. Co. Hist. Soc. at the site of Ft. Augusta, Sunbury, Pennsylvania, Feb. 17, 1756, he was commissioned ensign in a company of which his father was captain, in Lieut. Col. John Armstrong's battalion, and served as such in Armstrong's expedition against Kittanning September 7, 1756. He was wounded in the attack. October 23, 1757, he was commissioned lieutenant of the Second Battalion and participated in the Forbes expedition to Fort Duquesne.

He was promoted captain February 17, 1759, and October 2, 1764, was commandant of three companies on the northern frontiers. He was in command of a company July 27, 1764, which pursued the Indians who had killed a schoolmaster named Brown and his ten scholars near where Greencastle now stands (See reference to Bard narrative).

Captain Potter removed to Sunbury soon after the purchase of 1768 and was March 24, 1772, appointed one of the justices of Northumberland County at its organization, and was one of the commissioners appointed to run its lines. Soon afterward he settled upon and improved the John Potter warrantee tract, about one mile above New Columbia (now Union County) where he resided until the spring of 1774, when he removed to Penn's Valley. His first improvement was at the spring where the "Old Fort Hotel" stood (Potter Township) where he built a log house, which was fortified in 1777 and known as Potter's Fort.

On the 24 of January, 1776, he was elected colonel of the Upper Battalion of Northumberland County and in July a member of the Constitutional Convention. He was in command of a battalion of Northumberland County militia at Trenton December 26, 1776, and at Princeton January 3, 1777, and on April 5, 1777, was appointed third Brigadier General of the militia of the State, was in command of his brigade at Brandywine and Germantown, and served with great ability upon the outposts of General Washington's army while encamped at Valley Forge, and by particular request of the State Council, remained in the field during that winter. He obtained leave of absence on the 9th of January, 1778, on account of his wife's illness. His letter to President Wharton, from Lancaster Camp, Chester County, December 11, 1777 (Pa. Arch. 1" Ser. Vol. 6 P. 123) states:

> "I hope the Council will appoint some more Brigadiers that I may for sometime be relieved, I am convinced the Council will not expect that I can stand this winter campaign also. In the last years I have been but three weeks at home. It is time I should go to see my family, my affairs call loudly for it. I believe fighting is over for sometime. I am willing to do anything in my power to serve my country, but it is necessary that I should have a little rest. I am, with great respect your most obedient humble servant. James Potter."

During the summer of 1778 he was in Penn's Valley repelling inroads of the Indians, throughout the West Branch territory. This was the year of the Great Runaway and wholesale flight from the settlements. At that time when urged by General Thomas Hartley to join his campaign into the Tioga and Wyoming country and later in 1779 when requested by General Sullivan to assume a command in his expedition he declined on the ground that his opportunity for most effective services lay closer home. He remained in Penn's Valley as late as July 1779, when most of the inhabitants had evacuated the region, then taking his family to Middle Creek (now Snyder County). Reference has been made under "Benjamin Jordan" to the Northumberland County militia under General Potter's command since January 1776. Its conspicuous part in the Brandywine and New Jersey campaigns is fixed in history, but the part it played later in defense of its home frontiers, extending over a vast region west and south from Sunbury, to the upper West Branch and into the Cumberland and Juniata valleys is less familiar. Indian outbreaks occurred in these settlements immediately after, being stripped of their best men for service with the Continental Army. General Washington, after the Battle of Brandywine yielded to the call for home protection and from the winter of 1777-78 until 1783, these troops were continuously engaged on the Pennsylvania frontiers. General Potter maintained a vigilant supervision over the chain of fortifications in company with such gallant men as Colonels Henry Antes, Samuel Hunter, Cookson Long, John Kelly, Captains John Brady, Samuel Brady, Hawkins Boone and Samuel Daugherty. The story of bravery and sacrifice of each of these and of

the individual defenders belongs to the epic of America. One must still search for the details, however, in such fragmentary records as the diaries of captives, depositions, memoranda and personal narrations. Boone and Daugherty fell defending Fort Freeland July 1779. John Brady was killed by Indians near Muncy April 11, 1779, after surviving severe wounds at Brandywine.

November 16, 1780, James Potter became a member of the State Council. November 14, 1781, he was elected Vice President of the State, and May 23, 1782, was unanimously elected Major General.

In the summer of the year following, 1782, General Washington decided that three expeditions should be sent against the Indian allies of the British. One, under Major General James Potter, was to advance from Fort Augusta (Sunbury) against the Seneca strongholds in the valley of the Genesee. Indian atrocities were meanwhile occurring in the Wyoming Valley. Chiefly through the intervention of General Sir Guy Carleton - a humane man who had never approved the infamous alliance of the British with the Indians, a repression of marauding bands was accomplished. Learning of General Carleton's action, General Washington on September 23, from his headquarters at Newburg-on-the-Hudson ordered an abandonment of the expeditions from Sunbury and Fort Pitt. (See Sipe, "Indian Wars," pp.678-680; Pa. Archives, Vol. 9, p. 641)

Although a letter from Col. Samuel Hunter, at Sunbury, to James Potter, as vice president of the Supreme Executive Council, dated October 26, 1782, reports a continuation of savage hostilities at Wyoming and Chillasquaque Creek, and atrocities also occurred in Western Pennsylvania during the Spring of 1783, the danger of organized attacks was gradually lessening.

From this period, after about twenty-seven years almost continuous military service in the field, General Potter was enabled to retire to civil pursuits. In 1784 he was elected a member of the Council of Censors. In 1785, he was appointed one of the deputy surveyors in the "Old Purchase." He had by this time accumulated very extensive lands in Penn's Valley and he became associated with Honorable Timothy Pickering and others in lands further west included in the "New Purchase" of 1784, becoming an active exploratory agent in the locating of same, while associated owners remained "back east." The Indian menace, while relieved, was by no means removed.

In 1788, he turned his attention to improvements in Penn's Valley, erecting the first house at Potter's Bank and the Mills there. He was injured in raising a barn near "Old Fort" in the fall of 1789 and died in Franklin County, whither he had gone for medical treatment, November-December 1789. General Potter is described, physically, as "a stout, broad-shouldered, plucky, active man, five feet nine inches in height, of dark complexion." He had a hopeful disposition in the face of difficulty. In a letter dated May 28, 1781, he says, "Look where you will, our unfortunate country is disturbed; but the time will come when we shall get rid of all these troubles."

One of the few but interesting sidelights on his home life is that reflected from Rev. Philip Fithian's diary, following a few days' visit in 1775. He was an itinerant minister and a "supply" at the Presbyterian Church

in West Penn's Valley. James Potter, then Captain Potter, was evidently a customary host for such. Quoting:

> "Aug. 1st. A little before sunset arrived at Capt. James Potter's at head of Penn's Valley. * * * "
>
> "Aug. 2nd. Capt. Potter took me over his farm. He owns many thousand acres of fine land * * *.
>
> "Aug. 3. Capt. Potter has tasted in times past some streams of the Pierian spring. He has here a number of books - Justice Blackstone's celebrated commentaries, Pope's writings, Hervey's Meditations, many theological tracts, etc. Over these, I am rambling today, etc.**
>
> "Aug. 5. It is muster day; the Captain goes off early. I am not pleased with the captain's plan of farming; he has too extensive a scope of business - 4 men servants, 2 boys, more than 200 acres of ground now cleared; much more cutting down; two plows going in a tough rye stubble, one pair of oxen in one, two horses in the other, both too weak. A large field of oats is ripe, some flax too ripe and not yet pulled. But it is difficult to be nice in so rough a country. ***
>
> "Sunday, Aug. 6. At one I began service in Capt. Potter's house. Only eight men and not one woman beside our family present. Capt. Potter tells me there are now only 28 families in the valley. Of these 22 are subscribers, and they have raised £40 on subscription as a fund to pay supplies. * * *
>
> "Tues. Aug. 8, Capt. Potter paid me for my supply, 25 shillings. Mr. Thompson came, we breakfasted and set out."

Hon. Timothy Pickering was also a visitor at his home in 1786, who referred to the occasion pleasantly but without detailing any observations.

One may take the bare record here sketched and visualize the full stature of the man. He was continually at the point of action and all that may be gleaned from official records is commendatory of him. He yielded as many did to the prevailing passion for land and the tendency to "bite off" more than he could "chew." The trait was common to the period and incidental to a tremendous faith in the country's future. The scarcity of hard money and the instability of paper currency, with a great plenitude of land with which to pay military debts made the land a temptation to the soldier and a subject of wild speculation for the capitalist. In reviewing the era, we should distinguish sharply between those who went out to settle and conquer the lands from those who played the game from a safe and comfortable distance. General Potter was essentially the man of action.

It is stated that, at his death, General Potter owned about 6000 acres of land in the heart of Penn's Valley, aside from his interest in about 20,000 acres held by the Pickering syndicate.

> "The road from Spring Mills to Boalsburg ran seven miles without an intervening owner, through one portion of his possessions,--all good farms still."

Says Meginness in his "History of the West Branch Valley" (Otzinachson).

WILL OF GENERAL JAMES POTTER

General Potter's will, dated October 24, 1789, and probated December 15, 1789, consumes eleven pages in the record book at Lewistown, Mifflin County (1/7). It deals meticulously with the disposition of his large estate and provides the most definite genealogical data available.

Besides naming his own surviving children and his wife, Mary (who d. 1791 or 1792), he names:

> "My brother Samuel Potter and his wife Susannah"
>
> "John Latimer, son of my sister, Margaret Latimer"
>
> "John Potter and Thomas Potter, sons of my brother, Samuel Potter"
>
> "John McMullen, son of my sister, Hannah McMullen"
>
> "James Young, son of my sister, Anna Young"
>
> "John Jordan, son of my sister, ISABELLA JORDAN (This is the John Potter Jordan mentioned herein under 'Benjamin Jordan')"
>
> "James Potter Beard, son of my sister, Mary Beard, when he arrives at the age of 21"

Also, without mentioning any relationship:

> "James Potter Jordan, son of Thomas Jordan"
>
> "James Potter Murry, son of James Murry (Murray)"

(The latter was probably a son of General Potter's close associate in the Army, Colonel James Murray).

Provisions relating to the decedent's parents are that money arising from the sale of certain lands and personalty shall be used for

> "defraying my funeral charges, bringing the bones of my mother and my son John from Middle Creek, where they are now interred and burying them in Stanford's burying ground in Potter's Township, after erecting tombstones over their graves, and also over the graves of my father, my former wife Elizabeth and my own."

It appears doubtful that these requests were gratified, as the location of the graves of General Potter and his parents is not definitely known today.

He also provided for the continuation for six years of his yearly subscription for the support of a clergyman in West Penn's Valley Congregation.

The lands bequeathed in addition to portions of "the lands I hold in the New Purchase in company with Timothy Pickering and his associates" consist of many tracts in Potter's Township, in the "Great Plains" near

Nittany Mountain held under numerous warrants issued in the names (inter alia) James Potter, John Potter, William Nesbitt, John McConnell, Thomas McKain, John Coyle, William McCormick, William Hay. Owners of adjacent tracts named are John Barber, William Rankin, Jacob Jack, ISABELLA POTTER, BENJAMIN JORDAN, William King, et al. Also refers to "land in White Deer Twp. Northumberland County surveyed in name of JOHN POTTER.

The testator's son, James Potter, and sons-in-law, James Poe, Andrew Gregg and George Riddles are appointed Executors.

General Potter's children were:

(1) John, who died at Middle Creek at about eighteen years; (2) Elizabeth C. who married Hon. (Captain) James Poe, of Franklin County, who was the son of Thomas Poe, hereinbefore mentioned.

These two were of his first marriage with Elizabeth Cathcart, of Philadelphia, said to have been a sister of Mrs. George Latimer.

By his second marriage with Mary Chambers, a widow, nee Patterson (dau. of James and Mary Patterson of Juniata County and a sister of Capt. William Patterson):

(3) James (Judge James Potter) born July 4, 1767:

(4) Martha, born on the Conococheague April 10, 1769, who married Hon. Andrew Gregg January 29, 1787;

(5) Mary, who married (1) George Riddles, a merchant of Middletown and (2) William McClelland;

(6) Margaret, who married Edward Crouch, of Dauphin County.

Of the numerous descendants of General James Potter, some attained especial prominence. A public interest attaches particularly to the family of his daughter, Martha, and her husband, Andrew Gregg. They had ten children and their lives fill important pages of Pennsylvania history.

Of them came Hon. Andrew Gregg Curtin, the Civil War Governor, General John I. Gregg, General David M. Gregg and others whose careers were remote in character from their pioneering forebears.

THE ALEXANDERS

Our own Alexander line derives directly from those settled on the New Munster tract in Cecil County, Maryland, some time prior to 1714. Among them were our ancestors Joseph Alexander (c. 1670-1730) and his son James Alexander (c. 1695-1779) hereinafter noted. Others of the name, probably of the same Scottish clan, were scattered in the colonies about the same period. After 1715, they became very numerous in the contiguous area, embracing parts of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and New Castle, Delaware. To follow the related line forward is a quite sufficient task without exploring the whole family background, yet allusion to certain contemporaries may tend toward better identification of those in direct descent.

As already indicated, "New Munster" was a grant of the Maryland Proprietary in 1683 of about ten square miles. It was evidently planned for Scotch Irish settlement, and from all accounts, the earliest known settlers were the Wallaces and Alexanders grouped as grantees in deeds dated May 18 and May 20, 1714.

These deeds, from Thomas and Sarah Stevenson, of Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, as grantors, were executed through their "friend John MacKnitt of Back Creek in Cecil County" as their agent and attorney "in favor of Matthew Wallace (Wallis) and Company," consisting of at least two Wallaces and seven Alexanders, named therein. The fact of their prior improvement of and residence on the lands deeded was also recited therein. In August 1718, confirmatory deeds were passed to substantially the same group.

Other records sufficiently establish the fact that certain Wallaces, Alexanders, MacKnitts, Stevensons and others of Scotch extraction were residing in Somerset County on the eastern shore of Maryland and were members of the Manokin Presbyterian Congregation as early as 1680. From the arrival of Rev. Francis Makemie from the Presbytery of Laggan, North Ireland, about 1683, there were continuous accretions to this racial group. That this locality was the original locale of the New Munster settlers or their antecedents seems unquestionable.

The flow of Scotch migration was undoubtedly influenced by particular events abroad. Economic and religious restraints, with such conflicts as the Civil Wars (1640-1649); the turmoil following James the Second's accession (1685); the Revolution of 1688; the Jacobite uprising in 1690, and a recurrence in 1715; the battle at Culloden Moor in 1746 all tended to stir mass movements. However individual choice, then as now, must be credited equally with external pressure as a factor inducing change of residence. The allurement of new scenes and greater opportunities has operated upon mankind since the first pilgrimage to Canaan at least. The Scotch as a race had both inherited and acquired more than average mobility, with a considerable degree of initiative.

The name Alexander appears among the original Scottish "undertakers" for the Ulster settlement scheme, which preceded Jamestown and Plymouth. There are few lists of first settlers here in which the name may not be found.

The Alexander family comes of distinguished Highland clans. Its descent is traced from Somerlad, Lord of the Isles in the reign of Malcolm IV (1153) through a misty genealogy to John, Lord of the Isles, who married the Princess Margaret, daughter of King Robert II (de Bruce). Their son Alexander was father of Angus, who founded the family of Macalister of Loup and of Alexander, who obtained from the Argyle family a grant of the lands of Menstrie in Stirlingshire and settled there, his descendants assuming the Christian name of Alexander as their surname. The fifth in descent from this personage was Alexander Alexander, whose successor was his son, William Alexander, the poet.

This William Alexander, Earl of Stirling (1580-1640) is among the most notable in early history of the "Alexanders of Menstrie." He acquired early fame as scholar, poet and author of tragedies. Becoming tutor in the household of James I for the young Prince Henry, he gained an extraordinary degree of royal favor.

At a time when the craze for colonization was epidemic in 1621, King James bestowed on him what is described as "the most prodigious gift" ever offered a subject, being a grant of all Canada, including Nova Scotia (or "Acacia") and Newfoundland. Later, in 1635, after he had been appointed Secretary of State for Scotland, been created a peer and made "extraordinary judge" in the Court of Session, he was granted also the whole of Long Island.

Not being a colonizer or explorer at heart, he refrained from visiting the new world, but wrote a book "An Encouragement to Colonies" in 1624 in the enticing manner characteristic of land promoters or entre - preneurs of his day and ours, to lure, if possible, new settlers thence.

During the reign of Charles I an expedition was organized under color of Stirling's rights which actually wrested Quebec from the French. However, the pliant Charles for reasons of personal expediency, forfeited the English rights and the territory remained French until Wolfe's seizure in 1760. Stirling's rights in Long Island were released for the sum of £ 3500 to the English Government prior to the time the Duke of York saw fit to oust the Dutch control under Peter Stuyvesant and claim it for himself.

Though a failure as empire builder, Stirling retained mild literary fame, and more marked distinction as a recipient of royal bounties. His versatility of talent is at least noteworthy.

The Stirling title appears to have lapsed for a period, when sought to be revived in the person of William Alexander (1726-1783) known during the American Revolution as Lord Stirling, Major-General in the Continental Army. While it is uncertain that his heirship was ever conceded by the English Courts, he was himself convinced of it and adopted the title. His strong personal character and commendable military record sufficiently fix his place in history without need of any heraldic appendage, however.

This Lord Stirling held a further distinction in being the only son of James Alexander (1691-1756) a leading lawyer and patriot in the colonies. He is remembered for the zeal with which he espoused the cause of Peter Zenger, the New York printer, whose prosecution for libel aroused a storm of patriotic protest and set a landmark in the battle for freedom of the press. When James Alexander was himself debarred from defending Zenger in court, he

procured the services of the distinguished Philadelphia lawyer, Andrew Hamilton, in this cause celebre. Alexander's ability was praised by Benjamin Franklin, with whom he was a co-founder of the American Philosophical Society. It is said that he first came to America in 1715 as a refugee from the Jacobite uprising.

There were so many James Alexanders at about this period - three of the name among the first settlers of "New Munster" - that a process of elimination and verification must be applied in order to accurately identify our own ancester of the name.

Closely following the "New Munster" settlement other neighboring groups of Alexanders appeared. One Samuel Alexander, probably related, with his sons Andrew and Francis, took up tracts in the southern part of Cecil County under patents: "Sligo" surveyed in 1713; "Alexandria" in 1714 and others later.

This Samuel and associates including one of the name Brevard (familiar to North Carolina history) conveyed land on Broad Creek for the location of Bethel Presbyterian Church about 1723, in proximity to "New Munster," His will is dated March 29, 1727 (Recorded Cecil Co. AA-1/271).

Another apparently distinct group of Alexanders settled near Nottingham, Maryland, a few miles west of New Munster and verging on Chester County, Pennsylvania. Among the heads of families here were John Alexander, of Lanarkshire, Scotland, and his wife Margaret, who migrated from County Armagh, Ireland, about 1736. Their sons were Hugh, James and John, and daughters Rachel and Margaret. Many of the early Alexanders in the Kishacoquillas, Sherman and other valleys west of the Susquehanna derive from this line. Relationships through intermarriages arose between the various Alexanders, the Hamiltons, Potters and other North Irelanders of this region, so that the stock may be said to have been somewhat intermingled from an early period.

One Robert Alexander, of Glasgow, Scotland, becoming a merchant at Annapolis, Maryland, acquired extensive lands in Cecil County, chiefly in the vicinity of Elkton. These in 1737 he left to his cousin William Alexander of Scotland. (Later of Cecil County. His Will, 1745). The estate of this William and wife, Araminta, devolved chiefly upon their son Robert Alexander, a lawyer and prominent figure in the early history of Baltimore City and County, with a more colorful career later. In 1765 he was one of the "Sons of Liberty," a member of the "Non-importation" association in 1769 and an influential supporter of the Boston "resolves" in favor of the colonies in 1774. He represented Baltimore County in several Provincial conventions and was member of the committee of observation and council of safety until 1776. He was then appointed deputy to the Continental Congress. While he denounced certain arbitrary and coercive measures adopted by Great Britain as a member of the Congress, he refused to join in the steps leading to severance of the colonies and adoption of independence. When the British fleet landed at Head of Elk, Maryland, in 1777, he having turned completely loyalist, boarded a sloop and eventually sailed for England. His extensive lands and property were later confiscated. Fruitless efforts later to regain his citizenship and property provide the tragic sequel to the career of this conscientious dissenter from the orthodox American faith. Much dramatic material lies in the detailed story not to be recounted here. In a retrospective view this Robert

may be seen as a high example of costly devotion to principle in the face of adverse popular sentiment.

In a recent work "Robert Alexander, Maryland Loyalist" by Janet Bassett Johnson (Putnam, N. Y. 1942), it is stated:

> "Other Cecil County families bearing the name Alexander claim a genealogy that went back to Bruce, and he may have been related to these families."

The Alexanders for whom Alexandria, Virginia, was named were apparently of the Earl of Stirling line. One John Alexander is said to have migrated from Scotland to Stafford County, Virginia, in 1660. His son, Captain John Alexander, acquired title to a large tract extending from "Great Falls of the Potomac to Hunting Creek." George Washington reputedly surveyed these lands for the Alexanders in the seventeen fifties. They included the present site of Alexandria and also the "Arlington" and "Abingdon" tracts which John Parke Custis (only son of Martha Washington) acquired from heirs of Capt. John Alexander, Robert and Gerard Alexander, in 1778. A descendant of this line, Nancy Alexander, became the wife of Fielding Lewis, eldest son of Colonel Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington, George Washington's sister. Though there are indications of relationship between these Virginia and the Maryland Alexanders, none seems definitely established. It so happens that two of the sons of our Amos Alexander of New Munster, Amos and Mark, were residents of Alexandria, Virginia, in 1798.

Most of the numerous colony of Alexanders in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, from about 1754 were closely related to the New Munster group, as hereinafter appears. Nottingham and Chester County Alexanders were also represented in this migration, along with numerous neighboring families.

Another distinct group followed the settlement about the year 1747 in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, of Archibald Alexander. This Archibald, born in County Down, Ireland, in 1708, settled first at Nottingham, Pennsylvania, about 1737. He became the first sheriff and a leading spirit in the new settlement at Rockbridge, Virginia, bearing the title of "Captain". His descendants are numerous - "almost as countless as the stars", one biographer states. His grandson, Archibald Alexander (1772-1851) was a Presbyterian minister of Rockbridge County, Virginia, President of Hampden Sidney College (1796) and first professor of Princeton Theological Seminary (1812). James Waddel Alexander and other prominent ministers and educators are of this branch. The name Archibald Alexander appears also among those prominent in Delaware history at an early period.

There were Alexanders in New England and New Jersey from early colonial times, but other branches of the multitudinous clan are only alluded to for the purpose of roughly distinguishing our own line and setting a general historical and geographical background.

While the relationship between these early groups is obscure, the later lines of descent are generally clear.

W. H. Foote in his "Sketches of North Carolina" (1846) is authority for the statement:

> "Among Presbyterian emigrations from Scotland to Ireland to escape prosecution for conscience' sake during the period between 1610 and 1688, there were seven brothers bearing the same name of Alexander. Their grievances increasing a few years previous to the Revolution of 1688 * * the Alexanders resolved to seek quiet and repose in the new world. * * They landed in Manhattan. Part of the company remained there, from whom it is related William Alexander, commonly known as Lord Stirling, a major general of the Revolution, descended. The others took up their abode for a time in New Jersey; then settled in part, perhaps, in Cecil County, Maryland, others in Pennsylvania."

The above is as plausible and authentic an explanation of their coming here as may be found.

The fact that they were present in numbers on this side at such early date is sufficient for our purpose without further resort to the oversea background. Though routed via Ireland, they had kept their Scottish traits and allegiances intact. Perhaps their immunity to the infectious wit and imagination of the native Celts resulted in a distinct loss to their posterity, but they were too clannish and obdurate by nature to concede any rooted habits or principles to any foreign environment. At least two centuries of association and intermarriage with their "ain ilk" had well fortified their innate tastes and prejudices.

They multiplied and spread amazingly. Something of their non-conformist and libertarian spirit was infused into the major events of our national history. With little taste for trade or financial experiments, they were bold and opinionated politically; had a very high regard for education and constituted generally a thinking element. Being agriculturally inclined, they fastened to the land readily and clung closely to every right and privilege that followed ownership.

Had their predilection for church, political and military activities, as well as land ownership been less marked, the difficulty of tracing their roving steps would have been greatly increased. They seem notably lax as diarists or correspondents. However, they identified themselves with Presbyterian Church establishment, kept close to the centre of Whiggish political movements and joined the military forces as occasion arose, while avidly taking up lands on the extending frontiers.

Thus the researcher has been enabled to fill gaps and remove uncertainties in his family history from about 1700 for the benefit of all it may concern.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER

(Circa 1670-1730)

The birth date of Joseph Alexander is uncertain. He was one of the first record grantees of "New Munster" lands, by deed dated May 18, 1714, from Thomas and Sarah Stevenson. At that time his son, James Alexander, was evidently of legal age, being named as a "joint purchaser" in that deed, as well as the confirmatory deed from Stevenson dated August 15, 1718. Joseph Alexander was, therefore, probably born prior to 1670. Both he and his son James are referred to in the 1714 deed as among those who had "theretofore settled upon and improved" portions of the 1150-acre tract then conveyed.

The evidence that Joseph -- and possibly his parents -- were previously resided in Old Somerset County on the eastern shore of Maryland and members of a Presbyterian congregation there located, probably Manokin Church, is persuasive.

Following acquisition of two tracts of land in New Munster, 368 and 184 acres, respectively, the Land Office records at Annapolis disclose a certificate of survey issued to Joseph Alexander in 1724 for a tract of 710 acres known as "Joseph and James Settlement." The location is indefinite but apparently in the New Munster area.

Joseph Alexander's will was executed 13 December, 1726 and probated 9 March, 1730 in Cecil County, Maryland, (AA-1/222) indicating his death just prior to latter date. He describes himself as "of New Munster in Cecil County" and "tanner", in accordance with the prevailing custom of designating his vocation. He mentions a daughter Sophia and two married daughters, Jane Muley and Abigail Clapan, neither of whose spouses have been definitely identified. The first is more probably "Mackey", but examination of the original will and other records leaves these surnames still obscure. He also names a son Francis, a son-in-law, Elias Alexander, and refers to a bond of one Sarah Steven (Stevenson) dated 19 August 1718. This bond undoubtedly relates to a transaction connected with the Stevenson conveyances of approximately that date.

As no mention is made of his wife, she evidently predeceased him. His principal estate is left to his son, James Alexander, who is also made executor.

It is significant that of the witnesses to the will, one signed "John McKnight", but later made oath to the probate as "John MacKnite." He was most probably the brother of the Margaret McKnitt who married James Alexander, Joseph's son. Various spellings of this surname occur throughout the records. John MacKnite in his will dated 14 April, 1733, probated 13 June, 1733, refers to James Alexander as "my brother-in-law".

The other son, Francis Alexander, has not been identified in later records.

The close neighborhood and church associations between the families of Joseph Alexander and other Alexanders, the Wallaces, McKnitts, Brevards, McWhirters, Sharps and Steels residing in and about New Munster, as well as the old Somerset section of Maryland suggest the strong probability of blood and marital relationships in the group aside from those definitely established.

The fact is clear that Joseph Alexander was a senior member of the New Munster Community and he was most probably settled within the province of Maryland prior to 1700.

JAMES ALEXANDER

(Circa 1695-1779)

James Alexander, son probably the eldest, of Joseph Alexander, with a partnership interest in his father's New Munster land acquisitions, was born as early at least as 1695, although the exact date seems unascertainable. He was most probably born within the Province of Maryland.

His name first appears in the land records in the deed of May 18, 1714 (Liber 2/280 Cecil County), Thomas and Sarah Stevenson to Matthew Wallace "and Company" (including seven Alexanders) conveying 1150 acres in New Munster. This group, according to said deed, had theretofore "improved and possessed" said tract and divided same "among themselves, each man to his holden." The portions actually allotted to Joseph and James Alexander, his son, appear by the Stevenson confirmatory deeds of August 15, 1718 (Liber 3/199) to have been 368 and 184 acres.

These and other lands devolved upon James under his father's will, probated 1730 (Wills, Cecil Co. AA-1/222). As above indicated, at least one patent of 710 acres was acquired by Joseph and James jointly in 1724. Other certificates of survey issued to James Alexander in 1724 cover "James' Inheritance", 170 acres, and "Fortress", 444 acres, both in Cecil County.

The exact extent of acreage eventually owned by James is unknown and unimportant, but he evidently felt the current craving for land ownership and spread his interests beyond Maryland into North Carolina. He must have had a consequent interest and activity in public matters. The record of the convening of the Cecil County Court, June Term 1721, includes the names James Alexander and John MacKnite as members of the "Orphans Jury". Elsewhere in the court proceedings of this period, reference is made to him as "Captain James Alexander" (March and August Terms 1723).

June 17, 1721 (Liber 3/357) there appears record of commissions granted by Charles, Lord Proprietary of Maryland, appointing among others James Alexander a Justice of the Peace. Again November 3, 1722 (Liber 3/513) appears a like appointment. Both records include also the name of Samuel Alexander, alluded to herein, James Alexander appears as one of "His Lordship's Justices of the Peace for Cecil County" in a deed of record March 25, 1724 (Thomas to Bedford) and in other legal instruments of this period.

James Alexander married Margaret McKnitt, probably in the year 1714. He is referred to in the will of John MacKnite, probated June 13, 1733 (AA-1/261) as "my brother-in-law". The father of Margaret McKnitt was also John. The spelling of this name is variously recorded as McKnight, MacKnite, McKnitt and later, McNitt.

As appears herein, one John MacKnite was witness to the will of Joseph Alexander, James' father. Regardless of changes in spelling, the name seems unquestionably derived from the family settled in Somerset County, Maryland, about 1680. The name John McKnitt appears in a petition of November 28, 1689, of "Inhabitants of Somerset." There is also record of the marriage in that County March 28, 1693, of "John McKnitt and Jane Wallis" cited in Torrence's "History of Old Somerset" (Richmond 1935). This work

lists "Jno MacKnitt (McNitt)" as one of the settlers of Somerset "1666-1700" and makes this further reference:

> "Something over a decade later (1680) we find among Somerset County settlers the names of a goodly number of families * * * we may certainly classify as Presbyterians -- the Alexanders, McKnitts, Wallises (or Wallaces) all of Manokin Hundred." (See pp. 213, 350, 399, 466.)

It will also be recalled in this connection that the first New Munster deeds of 1714 were executed by authority of a power of attorney from Thomas Stevenson "to my friend John MacKnitt, of Back Creek" (Liber 2/280 Cecil County). This was quite probably Margaret McKnitt's father and the one whose estate was administered in 1716 in Cecil County by John McKnitt and Martha McKnitt, Administrators. (Accounts 1/220). This account shows a payment to James Alexander but does not fix a relationship.

The MacKnitt family disappears from the Cecil County, Maryland, records at an early date. It reappears in the history of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, with five brothers "McNitt" who settled near the foot of the Seven Mountains in 1766. The Scotch-Irish complexion of these and contemporaneous settlements, with the known trend of migration tend to prove identity of the Maryland and Pennsylvania groups.

The name was perpetuated by the naming of a son of James and Margaret "John McKnitt Alexander" who became prominent in the pre-Revolutionary history of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, as appears elsewhere herein.

Of the possibly fifteen children of James Alexander, at least eight were born of his wife Margaret McKnitt, namely Theophilus, Edith, Keziah, Hezekiah, Jemima, AMOS, John McKnitt and Margaret.

Theophilus, the eldest, was born 1715, died August 1768. He is buried in Head of Christiana Cemetery, his grave being adjacent to that of his brother Amos and other Alexanders. Theophilus was a large land owner, active in civic and church affairs. The history of "The Rock" Presbyterian Church published seventy years ago (1872) lists him with Amos as an elder and notes that he was "remarkable for good sense." It is there stated that he "lived on the road running from Cowantown to Kimbleville, just north of where it crosses the telegraph road to Newark." This is closely adjacent to the lands of Amos and other Alexanders, as well as of John and Alexander Read. The name also appears frequently in the County records.

The family of Theophilus, particularly his son, Rev. Joseph Alexander (Princeton 1760) became prominent in Maryland and the Carolinas. Further references to these collateral lines are contemplated in these notes. Theophilus Alexander's will was probated 19 August 1768. (Liber BB-2/302). Ownership of lands in Maryland and North Carolina is indicated.

Hezekiah (1722-1801) and John McKnitt (1733-1817), sons of James Alexander, migrated to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, about 1754 with other relatives and neighbors from the New Munster region, including Brevards, Polks, Grahams, Davidsons, Cannons and Sharps, who figured importantly in North Carolina history.

Jemima Alexander, who had married a Major (John) Sharp and become a widow with six children in 1759 accompanied her brothers. The relationship of this Major Sharp to the family of Thomas Sharp, Sr., whose daughter Sarah married Amos Alexander, and whose son Walter married Kezia Alexander, is uncertain. The Sharp plantation was just west of the New Munster boundary and contiguous to the Alexander settlements. These families were closely associated, as appears in the Sharp history.

More particular reference to the Mecklenburg Alexanders will be given.

About 1745, his first wife having died, James Alexander married one Abigail -- and by her had Elizabeth, Abigail, Margaret, Josiah and Ezekiel, born between the years 1746 and 1754.

His name appears first on the minutes of the New Castle Presbytery as a ruling elder in 1725 and frequently afterwards in those of the Synod of Philadelphia.

James Alexander had acquired during the period of mass migration from Maryland and Pennsylvania to North Carolina (1740-1760) a considerable extent of lands in the latter province. Whether by purchase or grant for military services is uncertain. A strong infusion of Scotch-Irish Presbyterianism and spirit of independence followed the movement and influenced later Carolinian history.

A definite record of James Alexander's military services has not been found, despite the fact that he was referred to as "Captain". There were others of the name in the Maryland-Delaware-Pennsylvania area, as in the case of John Read. Considering the fragmentary and uncertain character of military rolls generally, it seems best to avoid conjecture where there is no supporting proof of identity. This James Alexander was in advanced age (above sixty) during the French and Indian war period. Undoubtedly he accepted the responsibility of military service that fell on all community leaders in his day. It is significant that he applies to himself in his will the designation of "yeoman", which in the old usage meant freeholder and a consequent readiness to render loyal military aid.

James Alexander's will executed 17 June 1772, probated 31 May 1779 names nine surviving children, Hezekiah, Amos, John McNit, Josiah, Ezekiel, Jemima, Elizabeth, Abigail and Margaret. The daughters Edith and Kezia and son Theophilus had predeceased him, but Theophilus' son George received a substantial devise. Amos and Josiah, with Hezekiah South, a close contemporary, are appointed executors. His estate included extensive lands both in Maryland and North Carolina.

The full text of his will appears herein.

A chief authority for the above family data is Rev. John E. Alexander's "Alexanders of New Munster and Mecklenburg" published privately 1878. Another is Johnston's "History of Cecil County" while my own examination of court records and historical material has been extensive. A work entitled "Alexandriana" by LeGette Blythe (Harrisburg, Pa. 1940) in my library portrays the careers of John McKnitt and Hezekiah Alexander, with their Mecklenburg, N. C. associates in an amusing fictional fashion, supported by known historical facts.

The extent of James Alexander's progeny is indicated by a "family tree" prepared by a descendant copy of which is in my possession. The relationships emanating from Pennsylvania, Maryland and North Carolina branches are multitudinous.

My paper on "New Munster" published in the Maryland Historical Society Quarterly for June 1940 describes the grant of Lord Baltimore in 1683 and the settlement by Alexanders and others soon thereafter. An amusing allusion to this fecund nest of Scots may be noted in Hervey Allen's recent (1948) historical novel "Toward the Morning" pp. 243-6. He has evidently caught the significance of the New Munster settlement in pre-revolutionary history when he has lawyer Yates say in the year 1764 (p. 244):

"If the ghost of old John Knox had walked down the village street(!) in Munster five and twenty years ago, he would have seen the Scotland he hoped for in full blossom and not a malignant for miles around. God's people alone abode there, presarved, pickled in their own holy vinegar. About the only bad trouble they had was too many children. Their congregation increased mightily, and one minister after another would lead them to the frontiers. Little Munster was like a hive that sent out new swarms with ministers for queen bees, if you'll take the mixed figure. No drones, they! Half the Scotch-Irish you meet in the colonies seem to hail from there. Maybe it's a portent. I've given much thought to it. Theocrats, y'know. Dangerous! Farmers and warriors with John Knox's God. Whew!"

AMOS ALEXANDER

(Circa 1730-1780)

Amos Alexander, son of James and Margaret McKnitt Alexander, was born in 1730 on the New Munster tract in Cecil County, Maryland. Died 1780. It is evident that in addition to any lands inherited from his father, he acquired a number of plantations and mills during his lifetime. His name appears frequently in the land and probate records of Cecil County and there are many indications of the responsibilities assumed by him in his community and the skill and character displayed in performing them.

He married Sarah Sharp, daughter of the neighboring planter, Thomas Sharp, Sr., to whom references are made elsewhere. There were eleven children of Amos and Sarah Sharp Alexander surviving at his death, Priscilla, Rachel, JEMIMA, Ruth, Mary, Dorcas, Amos, Sarah, Mark, Margaret and James.

A son, Captain Walter Alexander, pre-deceased him by two years (1778). This son was appointed by the Convention of the Province of Maryland (Proceedings pp. 176-178) June 29, 1776, as Captain for a company to be raised in Cecil County. July 24, 1776, 31 men enrolled by him were passed by Col. Charles Rumsey (18 Md. Archives pp. 61-62) as a unit of the Fourth Eastern Shore Battalion, Maryland Flying Camp. It is believed that his death resulted from service injuries.

Amos Alexander was named as one of the Justices of the County Courts, at the first organization of the State Government in 1777 (Scharf's Hist. Md, Vol 3, Appendix). Prior to that he had been appointed "one of the Lord Proprietary's Justices for Cecil County" (1774-6 Liber 14, pp. 10, 165, 220).

He appears on the rolls of "The Rock" Presbyterian Church as an elder, in company with his brother Theophilus and his brother-in-law Thomas Sharp Jr. Thomas Sharp, Sr., his father-in-law, had been one of the active organizers of that church in 1720.

Johnston's History of Cecil County states (p. 138):

> "Theophilus and his brother Amos Alexander, both elders of The Rock Church, are buried at Head of Christiana. They lived in the north-eastern part of New Munster, and were much nearer the churches at Lewisville and Sharp's Graveyard, which is a short distance north of Fair Hill and near the site of the second church building, than they were to the old church at Head of Christiana where they at first worshipped."

Amos Alexander by his will, dated 26 August 1779, probated 1 May 1780 (Liber CC-3/141) disposes of an extensive estate, consisting of two separate plantations, with mills thereon and makes bequests of over ten thousand pounds to his wife, Sarah, various of the eleven children who survived and Robert, the surviving son of Capt. Walter Alexander. He appoints his wife, his son-in-law ALEXANDER READ (husband of Jemima) and nephew George Alexander as executors.

The irony of fate in this closing chapter of a worthy and successful man's life appears by examination of the Administration Account of the Executors filed in June 1781 (Vol. 4, folio 161). They charge themselves with goods and chattels of the deceased amounting in Continental currency to £ 42,869.15 "per inventory made July 1, 1780" and note the rate of exchange of Continental currency for sterling is FIFTY FOR ONE. It is unnecessary to comment that Amos Alexander's death coincided with the extreme depth of the Revolutionary depression. One of the primal causes of family scatterings is thus explained.

The ruins of a large stone structure known as the "Sentman Mill" stood on the Amos Alexander property on the east side of Big Elk, just above the Newark, Delaware, Highway (Route 273) until a few years ago, as one of the last tangible monuments to the energetic and thrifty founders of New Munster. Its association with this ancestor is established by the deed from John Passmore to Amos Alexander in 1768, the devise by him to his sons Amos and Mark and their deed to James Garrett in 1798. About 1851 the site was acquired by one John B. Sentman of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Whether a grist or woolen "fulling-mill" is uncertain.

On the west side of Big Elk, immediately opposite, there still stands a stone dwelling on the former Scott and Law, now Gravel, property with the foundation marks of a very large barn as eighteenth century relics.

Until 1940, when ruined by fire, there stood intact at Appleton Cross-roads, about two miles east, an old stone inn, reputedly built in 1714, known as "Dysart's". This was immediately adjacent to lands of the Alexanders and Reads. Archibald Dysart, once owner, was a witness to the will of John Read (1793) and his name appears frequently in land records of the period.

However, as to the whole region, one who inquiringly revisits these early ancestral scenes will look in vain for identifiable marks other than churchyards. The aspect has changed greatly since the writer's first visit in 1924. Our forbears had mostly departed thence more than a century before.

Amos Alexander is buried at Head of Christiana Cemetery, just east of the Delaware line on the Calvert-Newark highway, alongside the graves of his wife, Sarah, son Walter, brother Theophilus and other kin with clearly marked headstones.

His epitaph is:

"Here lies the Body of
Amos Alexander,
Who departed this Life
In the 50th year of his age
In the year of our Lord 1780."

SARAH SHARP ALEXANDER, Amos' widow, made her will 26 October 1801. She names the three sons, Amos, Mark and James, and eight daughters, Priscilla, Rachel, Jemima, Ruth, Mary, Dorcas, Sarah and Margaret, who survived her. The will was probated April 6, 1802 (Liber FF-6/275), indicating the approximate date of her death. She was most probably buried in Head of Christiana Cemetery although the writer has been unable to locate the grave.

In the best available record, Rev. John E. Alexander's "Alexanders of Munster and Mecklenburg", the following reference to children other than Capt. Walter (who had predeceased both parents) is given:

1. Rachel (died)

2. Priscilla, married Hugh (?) Longwill and removed to Penn's Valley, Pennsylvania.

3. JEMIMA, married ALEXANDER READ. Removed to Penn's Valley, Pennsylvania. Her granddaughter married Governor Bigler, of Pennsylvania.

4. Ruth, married Joseph Wallace, of Baltimore, Maryland.

5. Mary, married John Evans, father of Dr. Amos Alexander and grandfather of Alexander Evans, of Elkton, Maryland.

6. Dorcas, married Henry McCoy, of Philadelphia.

7. Amos, married Amanda Duffield, of Chester County, Pennsylvania, daughter of George Duffield, father of Rev. George Duffield, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

8. Sarah, married Robert Hodgson, father of James Hodgson, of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

9. Mark, married Elizabeth Gilpin, of Cecil County, Maryland in 1798.

10. Margaret, married her cousin, James Alexander, who moved to Kishacoquillas Valley, Pennsylvania, where he died and left lands there, in North Carolina and on the Susquehanna, to his sons, John, James and Jonathan.

11. James, married Mary Clendenin, of Harford County, Maryland, and lived sometime in New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Removed 1832 to Piqua, Ohio, where he died in 1862, aged 90 years. His children were Amos, Adam C., Alexander W., James, David and William Henry Alexander. Adam C. married Susan Ives of New London, Pennsylvania.

Capt. Walter Alexander, who predeceased his father, married Eleanor, daughter of Robert and Margaret Evans of Cecil County. Their only surviving child Robert is named in Amos Alexander's Will.

A deed executed March 19, 1798 (Cecil County Liber 21/30) by Amos and Mark Alexander, sons, indicates that they were then residents of the town of Alexandria, Virginia.

Although our interest in the Alexanders is centered in the line represented by the marriage of Alexander Read with Amos and Sarah Alexander's daughter Jemima, from which we derive, references to certain of the close collaterals are made herein. The profusion and spread of the many branches by the end of the eighteenth century with confusing name repetitions indicate what a widely diffused race the Alexanders have become today.

THE MECKLENBURG (N.C.) ALEXANDERS

Two brothers of Amos Alexander became well known to North Carolina history as patriots and signers of the Mecklenburg "Declaration of Independence" in May, 1775, of whom brief sketches follow:

HEZEKIAH ALEXANDER was born in New Munster, Cecil County, Maryland, January 13, 1722, son of James and Margaret McKnitt Alexander. He accompanied other members of his family to North Carolina about 1754. He became a magistrate and member of the Mecklenburg County Court at the organization of the County in 1762. Was a member of the District Committee of Safety in 1775; member of the convention that promulgated the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20, 1775; member of the state council in 1776 and of the Provincial Constitutional Convention in 1777. He lived four miles east of Charlotte where he erected a stone dwelling that still stands. He died June 16, 1801 and was buried in Sugaw Creek Churchyard. The writer visited his grave and that of Abraham Alexander in 1936.

Descendants through his marriage with Mary Sample are numerous. Of his children, William married Elizabeth, daughter of Abraham Alexander (1717-1786), president of the Mecklenburg Convention. Joseph (1776-1851) married Elizabeth McReynolds. Esther married __________ Garrison. Mary married Captain Charles Polk. Waightstill Avery (Princeton 1766), a Mecklenburg signer and eminent lawyer, made his home with the Hezekiah Alexanders.

An interesting fact relating to Hezekiah Alexander's interest in property and possible residence in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, was recently noted by the writer. In the "Chronicles of the Bards" (Seilhamer) under the "Bards of Carroll's Delight" (page 190) it appears that this Hezekiah Alexander, brother of our ancester Amos, was a link in the chain of title to the homesite of Richard Bard (1736-1799), son of the Archibald Bard (c. 1700-1765) who married a sister of Martha, wife of John Potter.

The story of the Indian capture of Richard Bard and his wife, Thomas Potter and others, appears herein under "Potter." The "Narrative of Richard Bard" written by his son, Judge Archibald Bard, refers to Potter as his cousin.

As to Hezekiah Alexander, I quote from the Bard Chronicles:

"Where the road from Lemaster to Upton crosses the Warm Spring road leading to Church-hill in Peters Township (now Franklin County) about two miles southwest of Williamson, are the ruins of an old mansion that was for many years the home of Richard Bard. The house was burned a few years ago. When it was built or by whom has not been ascertained. The early orders for survey show that the first settler on the Bard plantation was Hezekiah Alexander. His name appears on the Cumberland County tax lists for 1751, but he subsequently removed to North Carolina, and was living in Mecklenburg County in 1789. This is proved by a deed from Alexander to Bard dated September 13, 1789, (covering 555 acres) to perfect title. It is probable that Alexander went to North Carolina during the French and Indian War, and that Bard bought the plantation before the close of the struggle, as he was living on it at the time of the massacre of children at Enoch Brown's school in 1764."

Reference to this latter incident appears in the Potter family history. The quoted allusion to the land transaction involved families unrelated at the time, but now associated with the writer's ancestry.

There is ample bibliography on the Mecklenburg County settlement, including the controversial "Declaration of Independence" of May 20, 1775. Some of the authorities are

D. A. Tompkins' "History of Mecklenburg County" (Charlotte 1903)
J. B. Alexander's "History of Mecklenburg County from 1740 to 1900 (1902)
Dr. George W. Graham's "Mecklenburg Declaration and Lives of its Signers" (1905)

Also, Hunter's and Foote's "Sketches of North Carolina," and all histories of the Presbyterian Church.

It should be noted that this Mecklenburg group were not among the outlaw "Regulators" headed by Herman Husbands and other agitators. Colonel Moses Alexander led a regiment to the support of Governor Tryon and aided in the final defeat of the insurrection at the "Battle of Alamance."

It is also important to distinguish the Scotch-Irish group centered at Charlotte from the large body of Highlanders settled about the Cape Fear River after the Battle of Culloden (1746) and overthrow of the Stuart pretender, Among them were the famous MacDonalds, Flora, Allen and Donald. Having sworn at the cost of capture or death never again to take arms against the British crown they were in the main loyalists during the Revolution and formed a substantial part of the British forces. John Fiske in his "American Revolution" well describes Lord Cornwallis' attempt to conquer the rebellious element in 1780, as follows:

> "Advancing as far as Charlotte, he found himself in the midst of that famous Mecklenburg County which had issued its 'declaration of independence' immediately upon receiving news of the battle of Lexington. These rebels he said were the most obstinate he had found in America. He called their country a 'hornet's nest.'"

In a further reference to the Carolinas, Fiske says:

> "Here the small farmers of Scotch-Irish descent were every man of them, Whigs, burning with a patriotic ardour that partook of the nature of religious fanaticism. On the other hand, the Scotchmen who had come over since Culloden were mostly Tories."

The effects of this defiant spirit may be seen in the history of Cornwallis' gradual retreat to Yorktown in October 1781, after the stinging defeats at King's Mountain, the Cowpens and Guilford Court House.

JOHN McKNITT ALEXANDER was born in "New Munster," Cecil County, Maryland, in 1733; son of James and Margaret McKnitt Alexander. He joined the group in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1754. He was appointed a magistrate and elected to the Provincial Assembly in 1772. He was secretary of the Mecklenburg Convention of May 1775 and a signer of the "Declaration of Independence" that emanated therefrom. He was a delegate to the Assembly at Hillsboro in August 1775 and to the Halifax Assembly in

April 1776 engaged in preparation of a State Constitution. In 1777 he became first member of the State Senate from Mecklenburg under the new constitution. His name also appears as one of the first trustees of Liberty Hall Academy under the 1777 Charter, which had been organized by his nephew, Rev. Joseph Alexander, as "Queen's Museum" about 1766.

John McKnitt Alexander died July 10, 1817, and was buried at Hopewell Churchyard, near Charlotte. Of his marriage to Jane Bain, daughter of William Bain, there were born at least three sons and five daughters. The eldest son, William Bain Alexander (1768-1845) married Violet, daughter of Major John Davidson. Joseph McKnitt (1774-1841) who graduated at Princeton 1792 and became a physician, married Betty Winslow. A third son, Moses W., born 1798, married Violet, daughter of General Joseph Graham.

The eldest daughter, Margaret, married Colonel Francis Alexander Ramsey, son of Reynolds and Naomi Alexander Ramsey, and became parents of the eminent historian, Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey. His "Annals of Tennessee" (Charleston 1853) is a treasured book in the writer's library. A matter of family interest is his reference on page 278 to the association of his father, Colonel Ramsey, with General James White in the early exploration and settlement of the Holston region of East Tennessee, - then part of Washington County, North Carolina, before becoming the "Territory of Tennessee" and the present state in 1796. This James White was original owner of the site of Knoxville. He, with the aid of his son-in-law, Captain Charles McClung, laid out the town in 1791 that became the seat of territorial government and first capital of the new state. They are direct ancestors of the writer's daughter-in-law, Keith Price McClung, wife of Stratford Eyre McKenrick.

Ramsey's "Annals" state that in August 1783 General White and Colonel Ramsey made a tour of the Holston River region below the mouth of the French Broad and then saw the lands "which they afterwards entered and eventually occupied in the present Knox County."

Both White and Ramsey became leading figures in the turbulent beginnings of Tennessee and subsequent history of the Southwest. Both had been Revolutionary officers identified with North Carolina history. White hailed from Iredell County. Ramsey was a native of Pennsylvania. The latter's marital alliance with our Alexanders; his association with the founders of Knoxville and the intermarriage between scions of Alexander and White a century and a half later are mere accidents of fate. They are such as make genealogical research a fascinating pursuit.

John McKnitt Alexander's second daughter, Abigail Bain, married Rev. Samuel C. Caldwell, who was a son of Rev. David Caldwell, prominently identified with North Carolina history and a grandson of Rev. Alexander Craighead, equally distinguished Presbyterian minister of Pennsylvania and North Carolina. A third daughter, Mary, married Rev. James Wallis, also prominent in the Carolinas.

REVEREND JOSEPH ALEXANDER

(Circa 1735-1809)

Joseph Alexander was the son of Theophilus, the above mentioned brother of Amos Alexander, who lived in New Munster, Cecil County, Maryland, "on the road running from Cowantown to Kimbleville, just north of where it crosses the telegraph road to Newark." Theophilus Alexander was also an elder of "The Rock" Presbyterian Church.

The son, Joseph, graduated at Princeton (then College of New Jersey) with the class of 1760. July 31, 1766, he was licensed by New Castle Presbytery and the same year installed as pastor of the Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg County, near Charlotte, North Carolina. Here he founded (about 1766) a pioneer classical school -- reputedly the first in the Colony -- known as "Queen's Museum." A charter for the institution was refused by George III and in 1777 it was chartered by the North Carolina legislature under the name "Liberty Hall." Although finally closed in the late Revolutionary period, when the troops of Cornwallis occupied its halls, it had earlier been the scene of the Mecklenburg Convention of May 1775 and the school is traditionally linked with the later founding of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as Davidson College at Charlotte.

Joseph Alexander had meanwhile removed to South Carolina, becoming pastor of Union Church. In 1773 he was installed at Bullock's Creek Church. He remained in this charge until 1801 and continued active in the cause of education in South Carolina as he had been in North Carolina.

In 1807 the College of South Carolina conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon him. He is said to have been physically of small stature and quite lame, endowed with fine talents and an ardent patriot throughout the Revolution.

He married a daughter of Samuel Davies, a founder and president of Princeton College, who was noted also as an eloquent preacher and pioneer leader of Presbyterianism in Virginia.

Of the eleven members of Joseph Alexander's class of 1760 at Princeton, it is interesting to note that two, Benjamin Rush (signer) of Pennsylvania, and John Archer, of Maryland, became preeminent as physicians and patriots. Five others, Samuel Blair, Enoch Green, Alexander Houston, John Siemmons and Amos Thompson were prominent Presbyterian ministers. One, Josiah Thatcher, was successively a Congregational minister, senator and judge in Maine. Another, Jonathan Bayard Smith, a Philadelphian, studied law, became prominent politically and a member of the Continental Congress. The remaining one, Enos Keisey, settled at Princeton as a merchant and treasurer of the College. All had creditable careers and varying degrees of fame.

Joseph Alexander is said to have been influential in the migration to North Carolina of many members of the Alexander, Sharp and other clans from the New Munster area. Certainly some had preceded him and many of the group were active participants in pre-Revolutionary events leading up to the

famous Mecklenburg Convention at Charlotte, May 20, 1775. Scottish parsons were certain to be near the center of any such mass movement. Inspiration for a similar exodus of about thirty families to Western Pennsylvania from the same region is attributed to Rev. James Finley of "The Rock" Church.

Joseph Alexander is named in his father's will (Cecil County BB-2/302) as devisee of lands in North Carolina. He died July 30, 1809, after a retirement of several years from the ministry. A small volume of his sermons was published at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1807.

(Note: The above data on Rev. Joseph Alexander is chiefly drawn from "Princeton College during the Eighteenth Century by Samuel Davies Alexander, N. Y. 1872" and "History of The Rock Presbyterian Church" by Rev. J. H. Johns, Oxford Pa., 1872. Numerous references may be found in Gillett's and other histories of the Presbyterian Church. -- Sugaw Creek is frequently "Sugar". However "Sugaw" has better authority, being used in the present church structure -- the fourth since the original, built about 1756 - which I personally visited in 1936. C. R. McK.)

THE SHARP (OR SHARPE) FAMILY

The close relationship between the Sharp and Alexander families has been commented upon. It arises through the marriage of Sarah Sharp, daughter of Thomas Sharp, Sr., with Amos Alexander about 1750.

THOMAS SHARP, SR. (Will 1749) evidently settled on his plantation near Fair Hill, in Cecil County, Maryland, (just west of the New Munster boundary) about the year 1719. It was part of the 2000-acre tract originally patented in 1713 to James Carroll, under the name "Society". The deed from Charles Carroll, assignee, to Thomas Sharp of May 20, 1719, refers to the 240 acres conveyed as "Guill Glass". The Carrolls did not settle this tract. Its location is permanently fixed by becoming the site of "Sharp's Graveyard", well known to the community, other landmarks having disappeared. When the plantation eventually passed by the Will of Thomas Sharp, Jr. (1785) to Thomas Sharp III it contained about 500 acres.

Efforts to definitely establish the ascendant Sharp line have not been successful to date. The many descendants have long been widely scattered, no family annals are available and this compiler is restricted to record facts and the deductions to be fairly drawn therefrom.

The absence of family records is relieved considerably by fragments of church and local history gathered from many sources. Of especial help is the "History of Rock Presbyterian Church in Cecil County, Maryland", by Rev. J. H. Johns (Oxford, Pennsylvania, 1872). This Church organization (1720) was about coincident with the Sharp settlement. Thomas Sharp, Sr., was one of its founders and Thomas Sharp, Jr., an elder at the time of his death (1785), sixty-five years later. Amos Alexander (1729-1780) and Theophilus Alexander (1715-1768) were elders also. Other of our family connections were doubtless members. Meagre as they are, this church history with those of New London, "Head of Christiana" and others reflect much light on persons and events.

Thomas Sharp, Sr. and James Smith were the Commissioners who appeared before the New Castle Presbytery in 1720, after "a number of people lately come from Ireland" had settled about the branches of the Elk River, with a petition "wherein they supplicate to be formed into a Congregation," etc. It ultimately became known as "Rock Presbyterian Church," on the Little Elk in Cecil County, after temporary location at the "Stone Graveyard" at Lewisville, Pennsylvania, (2 miles north) under the names "Upper Elk" and "East Nottingham." The site at Lewisville was granted by David Wallace, one of the numerous Wallace family earlier seated in "New Munster".

The Congregation consisted of families recently settled on the "Society" and adjacent tracts, as well as New Munster families who regarded "Head of Christiana" and "White Clay" Churches on the Delaware side as too remote. The Roger Lawsons were already seated near by, with some of the Wallace and Robinson families. Joseph Steel, William Whan and Moses Andrews had taken parts of the original "Society" tract. Conveyances were also made by Thomas Sharp, Sr. to Moses Andrews and Alexander Logan.

The names Thomas Reed, Thomas Caldwell, Andrew Steel, Robert Finney, John and William Hogg (or Hoge) appear contemporaneously with Thomas Sharp, Sr. in the Church records. Ministers noted prior to 1725 are Robert Cross, George

Gillespie, Samuel Young, Daniel McGill, Thomas Craighead, Alexander Hutcheson and Joseph Houston. These names all have significance in local history and some are associated with neighboring churches.

This community was strongly Scotch-Irish and, therefore, Presbyterian. Clannish tendencies are revealed at every turn. If not actually intermarried, the families exhibited a rhythm of association and movement. In the migrations west and south identical family names are discovered in the later settlements, through Church and military rolls as well as land, probate and census records. Almost complete transplantations are suggested and a surprising number are definitely traceable to this quarter, in spite of confusing duplication of many individual names.

THOMAS SHARP, SR. was of the generation of our ancestor, James Alexander, of New Munster, and born probably about 1690. While evidently of Scotch derivation, it is not unlikely that previous generations of his family were in Maryland and that he was born there.

The earliest record found in Cecil County of the name is in deed from "John Sharpe and Mary his wife to Thomas Clifton", dated November 16, 1699, of part of a tract called "Thompsontown" on east side of Elk River, "now in occupation of said John and Mary Sharpe." This is a distance of some 15 miles south of the Thomas Sharp lands, near the ancient village Frenchtown. There are also records of Maryland land grants to William Sharpe (1673-1695), Peter Sharpe (1665) and John Sharp (1681), all of Talbot County and probably members of Society of Friends. No relationship with these has been established.

There was a John Sharpe also, "a native of Yorkshire, England" settled in what is now Chester County, Pennsylvania, before the arrival of William Penn in 1682. His son, Joseph Sharpe, who married Mary Pyle, of a well known Quaker family, succeeded him and located in London Grove Township, Chester County -- heart of a Quaker community. Their descendants settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, New Castle County, Delaware and the Carolinas. Though located in the same general area as the Thomas Sharps, no evidence of relationship appears and the known cleavage between Quaker and Presbyterian groups indicates distinct lines. Further allusion to the Chester County Sharps is made herein under "Jemima Alexander Sharp." No importance may be attached to the spelling "Sharp" or "Sharpe", as these appear interchangeably throughout early records.

In his will (probated December 7, 1749, Cecil County Liber BB-2/84) THOMAS SHARP SR. names his wife, Isabella, five sons, Walter, Thomas, James, Joseph and Samuel; sons-in-law, John Smith and David Wharry (Wherry) and daughters, Hanah and Sarah. After pecuniary legacies to those named, he bequeathes one-third of his estate to his wife Isabella. She and Thomas, Jr. are appointed executors with full power of sale. Thomas Sharp, Jr. acquired the home plantation and lived there until his death in 1785.

SARAH was the wife of AMOS ALEXANDER as noted herein.

Walter, the eldest son, married Kezia, daughter of James Alexander, and died in York County, Pennsylvania in January, 1750. His wife died about a year thereafter. Her will, probated February 20, 1751 (York Co. Wills A/28) names her only daughter Kezia as beneficiary and refers to her brothers, Theophilus, Amos, Hezekiah and John McKnitt Alexander with other members of

her family. Theophilus Alexander and her brother-in-law, Thomas Sharp, are appointed executors. They were also administrators of Walter Sharp's estate.

WALTER and KEZIA ALEXANDER SHARP were among the earliest settlers in a Scotch-Irish settlement on Marsh Creek in Hamilton's Ban Township, York (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania, with James Agnew and others named in Rupp's History. Hans Hamilton, who was the first Sheriff of York County (1749) and a close contemporary of Captain John Potter in Indian defense activities, was another of the group. It appears that the first meeting for the purpose of separation from Lancaster and organization of the new York, County was held at Hans Hamilton's home. Walter Sharp was appointed a Commissioner following organization of York County and qualified as such October 31, 1749, but died within a few months thereafter.

(See History York Co., Carter & Glassbrenner, Hbg. Pa. 1930, p. 103. Also Orphans Ct. Proceedings York Co., Dockets A/31 A/40, etc.)

The wife of David Wherry was apparently Isabella Sharp, David Wherry was an elder in "The Rock" Church for many years, lived near Hickory Hill, Pennsylvania, and his name appears as member of a Revolutionary Committee from Chester County, formed December 20, 1774. (Smith's Hist. Delaware Co., Pa. p. 281). David died 1800, aged 83, Isabella 1760, aged 32. Both are buried in Sharp's Graveyard. The name Wherry appears later on rolls of Middle Spring Church in the Cumberland Valley.

No further Cecil County record of the son, James Sharp, is found beyond a recorded receipt for a bequest of £ 42/10 under his father's Will, dated August 17, 1751. It is probable that he migrated to Pennsylvania with others of his family and neighborhood. The name appears later in York, Cumberland and Franklin Counties, without means of accurate identification. There was a Captain James Sharp with the Forbes Expedition in 1758, under Colonel Hugh Mercer. The name appears in juxtaposition with Captain James Potter (Pa. Archives 5" Ser. Vol. 1, pp. 178-185). In the same record, under "Recruits Enlisted by Capt. John Mather, Jr., 15 June, 1759", is found "Joseph Sharp, age 25, from Milford, Md.", which, from age and residence given, apparently fixes the identity of this Joseph as Thomas' son. "Ensign Joseph Sharp" appears in Captain James Fisher's Company, 7 Bat. Cumberland Co. Militia under Colonel Frederick Watts, 1777. A "John Sharp, age 25", also listed may have been a relative. It is also within the realm of possibilities that this John Sharp was the husband of Jemima Alexander Sharp, later referred to. According to one family record at least, her husband John was killed in Indian wars in Pennsylvania in 1759.

Samuel Sharp, the youngest son of Thomas, evidently continued to reside in Cecil County, from the record of certain land conveyances between 1767 and 1787. His wife Sophiah was apparently daughter of Theophilus Alexander.

THOMAS SHARP, JR. (1718-1785) was an elder in "The Rock" Church for about thirty years and continued to reside on the Sharp homestead. He and other members of his family are buried in the adjacent "Sharp's Graveyard." His grave is plainly marked with date of death, November 11, 1785, "aged 67 years", but that of Thomas Sharp, Sr. cannot be definitely located.

In the Will of Thomas Sharp, Jr. (1785-EE 5/75) five sons, William, John, James, Joseph and Samuel are stated to be "living in North Carolina. A son, Walter, was deceased. The sons Thomas, Amos, David and Ebenezer are described as "now at home with me". A daughter, Isabel Wallace, was "living in North Carolina.". Other daughters, Sarah, Mary Plymster (?) and Elizabeth are named, the latter being "now at home". His wife, Mary (whose maiden surname has not been ascertained) survived.

The plantation on which he lived, then about 500 acres and known as "Sharp's Industry" is bequeathed to his son Thomas. (Thomas Sharp III.) Mention is also made of other lands in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

The migration of the Sharp families to other parts was apparently total a century ago. Some were undoubtedly in Pennsylvania, many in the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee and the West.

William, the eldest son of Thomas Sharp Jr. (1742-1818) settled in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, about 1763, where he married a daughter of David Reese, one of the signers of the famous Declaration. He became an eminent soldier, lawyer and statesman, member of Continental Congress 1779-1782, and died in Iredell County, North Carolina, 1818, leaving a widow and twelve children.

Another progenitor of a distinguished line of Sharps is JEMIMA ALEXANDER SHARP, referred to elsewhere as the daughter of James Alexander and sister of Amos (our ancestors), who married a "Major" Sharp and migrated about 1754 from New Munster in Cecil County in company with her brothers Hezekiah and John McKnitt Alexander to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Her husband, Major Sharp, has been referred to in certain family records as "Thomas", in others as "John". While the writer is convinced that he belonged to the Cecil County group and was possibly a son of Thomas Sharp, Sr., his identity remains unfixed. In one of the Sharp family records, this John is said to have been the seventh son of James Sharp who "emigrated from North Ireland and settled in southeastern Pennsylvania near the Maryland line in 1712." The undisputed facts are that James Alexander had a daughter Jemima Sharp, that she moved to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and that a gravestone in the First Presbyterian Churchyard at Charlotte, North Carolina, bears the following epitaph:

> "Mrs. Jemima Alexander Sharpe
> Born Jan.9, 1727. Died Sept. 1, 1797.
> A widow 38 years."

Also beyond cavil is the record of her offspring, three sons and three daughters, as follows:

1. Ezekiel, who married Catherine Alexander
2. John (1752-1824), a Revolutionary officer, who married Martha Young. Their gr. grandson, Senator John Sharp Williams of Miss.
3. James, who married Rachel Cannon
4. Isabella, who married a Rev. Price, grandson of Isabella Price. Their grandson was Gen. Sterling Price, of Missouri.
5. Priscilla, who married Lewis______; had issue.
6. Jemima, who married Theophilus Alexander Cannon

The suggestions in certain family records that her husband was of a line of English Sharps settled in New Jersey or of the Chester County Sharps are not helpful as none of those is definitely traceable to the community in which Jemima Alexander resided. The brief history of "The Sharps of Chester County, Pennsylvania", published by W. C. Sharpe, Seymour, Connecticut, 1903, seems to account for all the eligible men of that Quaker group. It appears therein that one "Joseph, son of Joseph and Mary Sharp, b. 8 mo. 19" 1724, married Deborah Miller and removed to Carolina" (apparently Iredell County, North Carolina). They had a daughter Mary, b. 6 mo. 16" 1744. Certainly any other relationships with North Carolina at the period would have been noted if they had occurred, and a fusion of the Quaker and Presbyterian families is nowhere indicated. The writer hopes that eventually the uncertainty as to Jemima's marital alliance may be cleared, for satisfaction of the curiosity aroused.

Thomas Sharp, Jr. evidently increased his realty holdings during his lifetime. He re-acquired land (1750) from Moses and Latitia (or Lettice) Andrews which had been conveyed to them by his father, and purchased land in the Society tract (1752) from Robert Rowland, a resident of "Brick Hill", who was also an elder in Rock Church (d.1780).

The later devolution of the Sharp plantation is interesting. March 31, 1796 (Book 19/427 Cecil Co.) Thomas Sharp, of Cecil County, farmer, conveyed to Robert Morris of the City of Philadelphia, in consideration of the sum of 870 pounds, 15 shillings current money of Maryland, a tract of 258 acres, more or less, part of "Society" and bequeathed to him by his father, Thomas Sharp, Sr.

This Robert Morris was of course the master financier of the Revolution, and a monarch as well among those bold visionaries of his day who viewed the vast spread of unsurveyed and unseated lands to the west with covetous and expectant hearts. While building a prospective fortune through speculative holdings in millions of acres of such, he was also investing in numerous settled tracts closer home. On the same date as the Sharp transaction, neighboring properties were conveyed to Morris by Levi Tyson; by Captain John Evans and George Alexander, Executors of the Estate of Hezekiah South, and by William Mackey. How long Morris retained ownership of these properties is uncertain, but doubtless all went in the ultimate crash of his personal fortune.

By deed dated October 2, 1799 (Book 21/494) Thomas Sharp conveyed to Rev. Francis Hindman "all that plantation and tract of land situate partly in Cecil County, Maryland, and partly in Chester County, Pennsylvania, corner of 'Snow Hill' and 'Snow Hill Addition' binding on a branch of the Big Elk and containing 218 acres.

This Rev. Francis Hindman was, from about 1790 a preacher at "The Rock", New London and other neighboring churches. He conducted a classical school in "the large stone house that stands on the old Sharpe property" (Hist. Rock Church, 1872). He was a native of the community, his mother being a member of "The Rock" Church, living about a mile and a half from Carter's Mills (See Hist. Rock Church). Rev. John Moody (1776-1857) who was for more than fifty years at Middle Spring Church (Cumberland County, Pennsylvania) was a pupil at Hindman's Academy.

In a conveyance dated April 21, 1801 (Book 22/536) of a "mulatto woman named Jean" to Abel Hodgson, of Wilmington, Delaware, Thomas Sharp describes himself as "late of Cecil County, Maryland, now of Mason County, Kentucky." His removal may well be related to that of Rev. John Evans Finley and probably others of the Community to Mason County about 1795. Kentucky and Tennessee were being rapidly opened to settlement at this time, both via the Ohio River and the "Boone Trail."

Thus it appears that Thomas Sharp III had completely divested himself of his Maryland property and followed the westerly trend.

There appears in the records of Harford County, Maryland, April, 1802, the administration of the estate of one Thomas Sharp by James Sharp. The descendants of this Thomas Sharp, John, Thomas, James and Susanna (intermarried with William H. Barton), were evidently residing in York County, Pennsylvania. It is possible, but unlikely, that this is the above Thomas Sharp III, son and heir of Thomas Sharp, Jr. Available records afford no sufficient clue to identity, however. This possibility assumes, of course, the return to Maryland of Thomas Sharp III after his removal to Kentucky.

The family name became frequent in York and Western Counties of Pennsylvania, and in the Carolinas, as it disappeared from Cecil County, Md. The 1790 census indicates only three heads of families of the name in Cecil County, Thomas, John and Frances.

In Rev. J. H. Johns' "History of the Rock Church", written seventy years ago (1872) it is said:

> "How very few of the names once so prominent in this church and familiar in this community are known here today? The Lawsons, the Sharps, the Whans, the Alexanders, the Tanners, The Maffits, the Halls and the Mitchells were large families and extensive landholders, and for many years the chief supporters of this church, but they have left us and to most of us, their very names are strange sounds."

Some of the Steele, Mackey and a few other old families remain. The name of Jordan, which marks some of the oldest graves in Head of Christiana Cemetery, a few miles east, appears on a very recent monument in Sharp's Graveyard, but such links with the distant past are unusual.

Reference is made in other notes to Rev. James Finley (who m. Hannah, daughter of Robert Evans, two of whose family intermarried with Alexanders). After a pastorate at "The Rock" Church from 1761 to 1783, he became a pioneer organizer of congregations in Western Pennsylvania. At least thirty-four families from the community, including his five sons, followed his path. James Finley was a brother of the distinguished Samuel Finley, President of Princeton, and their careers were equally notable. Rev. Joseph Alexander, son of Theophilus, another pillar of the Church, joined the movement to the Carolinas prior to his father's death in 1768. Allusion may be made to the Cannons also, who intermarried with Sharps and Alexanders, derived from the same community and spread southerly.

The name of Cannon appears in New Connaght, or Susquehanna Manor, Cecil County, Harford County, Maryland, and at the Philadelphia Academy, as well as North Carolina, during the 18th Century.

THE McKENRICKS

To establish definitely the early American background of the McKenricks, before Andrew, my great-grandfather (circa 1787-1867) has been the most perplexing problem in my family researches. The explanation lies chiefly in the fact that Andrew's first wife, Rachel Baxter, from whom we descend, died about 1846. Father was then an infant about a year old and was thenceforth attached only to the household of his own parents, Charles and Barbara McKenrick. His grandfather, Andrew McKenrick re-married a widow, Mrs. Bart, who had children of her own and was apparently the typical stepmother toward the young McKenricks. Incidents related to me by Uncle Samuel McKenrick a few years before his death in 1940 and inferences drawn from Father's remarks indicate that they were not graciously received in their Grandfather's house after the advent of "Widow Bart".

Andrew McKenrick was a man of energy and initiative, undoubtedly of straight Scotch derivation, and I wish fuller details of his early life and parentage were available. The first definite record of his activities follows his settlement in the Buchanan Valley of Adams County, Pennsylvania. Father was positive he was born in Maryland in 1787, but was unable to fix the location or parents' names with precision. My own examination of numerous county records in Maryland and Pennsylvania has been unfruitful in this respect. Father was also certain that Andrew McKenrick served with a western Maryland company under Captain Miller at the Battle of North Point, September 1814, with Daniel Mickley, John Walter, Henry Bingaman and Samuel Bingaman, but our joint efforts to establish this service by records have failed. A collection of reminiscences published by John T. Reily, Martinsburg, West Virginia about 1892, contains the following, among other allusions to the McKenricks and Coles of the Buchanan Valley.

> "John Walter and Andrew McKenrick, Sr., were millwrights and enlisted in the army during the war of 1812 whilst working at their trade in Harbaugh's Valley."

This valley is located in Frederick County, Maryland, between Flint and Sabillasville. This tradition of military service was also stoutly maintained by Jacob Kohl (Cole), Father's cousin, and other old residents with whom I talked about the year 1924. Grandfather Charles McKenrick was of the belief that his grandfather (whom he had never seen) was Michael McKenrick, but this information has not aided toward exact identification.

A traditional insistence upon our own spelling of the name and prejudice against an inserted (d", makes me skeptical of all records of "McKendrick", but some allowance must be made for the careless orthography of olden times as well as the fact that the Scotch derivation of both McKenrick and McKendrick is probably the same. I have, therefore, not disregarded the latter name in my researches but have noted certain references to same for whatever the data may be worth.

Andrew McKenrick evidently came to Adams County as a young man, about the time of his marriage with Rachel Baxter (circa 1815) and settled in the Buchanan Valley, Menallen Township. His wife was apparently of a Franklin or Cumberland County family, where numerous Baxters were settled. Efforts to definitely establish her parentage have failed to date. Grandfather Charles McKenrick said her mother was a Dillone, of French descent.

The first appearance of Andrew's name in the land records of Adams County was March 9, 1840 (Deed Book O, p. 85) when George Smyser, of Gettysburg, conveyed to Andrew McKenrick, Michael Strasper and George Strasper, of Menallen Township, 250 acres "adjoining land of Andrew Noel in Menallen Twp."

The next is January 6, 1846 (Deed No. 632) when John B. McPherson, acting executor under the Will of William McClellan, Sr., conveyed to Andrew McKenrick, of Menallen Twp., 419 acres "bounding on land of Andrew Noel, John Edie and James Davidson".

Both tracts were undoubtedly mountain timber lands. Andrew McKenrick became an active operator of saw mills and his son Charles (Grandfather) was associated with him in operations both on the Conococheague, near the Franklin County boundary, and on tributaries of the Conewago to the east. His home place was near the crossroads leading from the main valley road (Route 234) to St. Ignatius Church, and at about the site of the George Cole (gr. grandfather) homestead, cooper ship and "Trust" post office, where George Cole, Jr. later resided and was postmaster. The substantial old frame dwelling traditionally associated with both McKenrick and Cole still stands and has recently been occupied by John M. Irvine. The Irvines were pioneers in the locality and Mrs. Irvine was a Miss Hall, niece of old Mrs. Strausbaugh who ran the store I remember, who gave me certain family data years ago and who was herself a relative through the "Widow Bart" family and other intermarriages.

Deeds of record in Adams County also show a number of conveyances to and from grandfather Charles McKenrick and wife, Anna Barbara, between the years 1854 and 1879. Their home place as I knew it, where Leo and I visited in 1891, and where Grandfather died in 1892, was a small farm known as the Andrew Noel or Steigers property, lying west of the main valley road.

Aside from my many personal visits to these localities, first in 1891 when my grandparents were living, and the many later excursions by automobile from Baltimore when I sought to retrace the steps of my paternal ancestors, as well as retrieve many hemlock and kalmia plants from the hallowed soil, the most helpful guide to locations is an 1858 map of Adams County which I possess. This is a duplicate of one first seen in the "Jenny Wade" house, preserved as a relic for the bullet holes that pierced it at Gettysburg in July 1863. There are three distinct markings thereon of "A. McKenrick's" lands; the homestead and two saw mills.

Other names on the map serve to perpetuate the County's settlement history. To one somewhat familiar with this, besides being a scion of certain pioneer families, the map itself constitutes a thrilling monument of the past. The first settlement by the Scotch Irish as they spread westward was in the Marsh Creek section of what was then Hamilton's Ban Township of York County - or even earlier when Lancaster County - from about 1736. Many old names persist, against increasing infusions of German, Dutch and other elements as the more restless Scots moved on, with a steady rise of new political and industrial interests, rivalries and conflicts to supplant the pioneers' struggle with the wild. Thus the map seems something of a bench-mark, such as surveyors use, from which lines of national history radiate.

Just restricted to family history, I may find thereon the point at which one Richard Bard (Baird or Beard) resided in Hamilton's Ban Township, on the 13th April 1758, "at the foot of South Mountain on the southeast side thereof" when a party of nineteen Indians descended on his habitation and captured him, Katherine his wife, John his 7-months old child, his cousin Thomas Potter, "son of the late Capt. John Potter, Esq." (my gr.gr.gr.grandfather) * * his servant and others, murdering the child, Thomas Potter and Samuel Hunter, but allowing the escape of Bard, who dragged himself for nine days and nights through the woods to Fort Lyttleton, there to recite the harrowing details.

As to William Bard (1738-1802) founder of Bardstown, Kentucky, see Bard Chronicles p. 263.

In this Hamilton's Ban Township also resided Walter Sharp and Kezia Alexander Sharp his wife, both descendants of my ancestors, in 1749 when York County was formed and Walter Sharp was elected one of the first Commissioners. The same election made Hans Hamilton, another resident, the first Sheriff of York County. Later he was to become an intimate associate with my forbear, Sheriff (and Capt.) John Potter in the defense of forts in Cumberland County against the Indians.

About the year 1830, St. Ignatius Church - still a landmark in the Valley, had become a focal point for the George Kohls, immigrants from Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, who immediately Americanized the name to COLE and became thenceforth worthy and important citizens. One son, Francis Cole, became a successful lumberman and a member of the Pennsylvania legislature; another, George Cole, Jr. was for many years postmaster, and always a gentleman of the sturdy type. Barbara, a daughter there met and November 3, 1841, married my Grandfather, Charles McKenrick. Widely divergent stocks thus converged to produce a new composite of vigorous, self-reliant and Christian character.

This old map explains how Father, hearing the cannon and sensing the approach of battle at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, followed the road from the valley to Cashtown on the Chambersburg Pike, fortuitously reached the rear of Lee's Army. If it was chance that laid the route to the Confederate lines, it was nevertheless the side his heart chose, and it was here that he came to the camp of Kemper's Brigade of Pickett's Division and fell to for aid with the hospital corps during the three days fight. Seeking the service first as an adventure, the boy of eighteen treasured all his life the memory of having done what he could to relieve suffering and aid a worthy cause.

These are among the reflections aroused by the Adams County map on the remote past. As time unceasingly weaves its confusing web of chance and circumstance, the past becomes bound up with the present. Father and mother meet in distant Clearfield County and in 1869 re-unite, perhaps unwittingly, many old blood and communal ties. Coming to 1938, my son Damer married Elizabeth Howson, whose mother's antecedents, the Yeatts and Grasses, are spotted about Hunterstown in Strabane Township.

It was this irresistible attachment to the soil surrounding ancestral roots that led me in years past to transplant countless seedlings of hemlock and mountain laurel from the Buchanan Valley to my own and my daughter Letitia's home grounds. Such sentiments inspire both a due reverence for the past and a desire to preserve its best elements in present and future.

Andrew McKenrick married Rachel[*] Baxter about 1815. There were eight children of this marriage, as follows:

Andrew, who lived in Franklin Township, Adams County, until at least 1870 and later removed to Iowa.

CHARLES, our grandfather, born May 1, 1818, died April 3, 1892; married Anna Barbara Cole, daughter of George and Elizabeth Geltz Cole (Kohl) November 3, 1841.

James, John and Samuel B., who I believe lived most of their lives in Adams County. Samuel B. McKenrick was born August 1829, died January 1914 and is buried at St. Ignatius Cemetery.

Teresa, married__________Baker and resided in Buchanan Valley.

Margaret, married Francis Will, also residing in Buchanan Valley.

Mary, married________Hahn and resided at Grampian, Clearfield County, Pennsylvania.

(* I have accepted Rachel Baxter as authoritative, as given by McKenrick to Frances, although Father in certain notes used Margaret)

CHILDREN OF CHARLES AND ANNA BARBARA McKENRICK (from Father's entries in our family Bible)

George A. b. August 21, 1842, d. October 18, 1842

JOSEPH FRANCIS b. May 9, 1845 (see sketch herein)

Samuel J. b. July 26, 1847 (see note)

Anna Mary E. b. May 18, 1849 m. Leonard Yeager, of Carlisle, Pa.

Rachel C. b. March 4, 1851 m. John Smith, of Carlisle, Pa.

Susan J. b. May 27, 1853 d. March 27, 1854

John I. b. Dec. 20, 1854 m.______died without issue, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, c. 1930

Margaret Anna b. July 26, 1857 m. John Kimple, of Adams Co., Pa.

George A. J. b. April 15, 1859 (see note)

William Aug. b. July 31, 1862 m.________d. August 5, 1905, at Warren, Pennsylvania

Chas. F. Edward b. January 24, 1869 d. September 25, 1870

Samuel J. McKenrick m. Annie E. Bloom 1870, d. March 6, 1941
at Curwensville, Pa. in his 94th year,
4 children, 8 grandchildren, 15 great
grandchildren surviving.

George A. J. McKenrick m. Eliza J. Doyle 1883. d. c. 1947 at
Altoona, Pennsylvania
unmarried daughter Mary surviving.

As to the Coles, the above cited volume of reminiscences by John T. Reily states:

> "George Cole, farmer and postmaster, Trust post office, is a native of Germany. His father George came to Buchanan Valley from near Chambersburg, Franklin County in 1840. He had been twice married. His first wife, Margaret Krug Cole bore him three children, Jacob, Margaret and Martin. After her death he married Elizabeth Geltz, who became the mother of the following: George (our subject) John, Francis and Barbara, born in Germany, and Elizabeth born in America. They emigrated from Berkenour, in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany in 1830, making Franklin County their stopping place. By trade the father was a cooper, which he also taught his sons, George and John, and after his death they established a shop on the homestead. They were both married the same day, October 1, 1843, to daughters of George and Elizabeth (Bittinger) Strausbaugh; etc."

Anna Barbara Cole McKenrick, grandmother, born December 4, 1824, died April 1, 1907 and was buried at Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sometime later these notes may be augmented by more specific information on the McKenrick line, if available, but for the time being I pass to a dissertation on the name itself, which may provide some clue for a future investigator.

C. R. McK.
Baltimore, August 1942.

Notes on the name McKENRICK, etc.

The origin of Scottish names is a rather mysterious and intricate matter, associated with the history of Scotland and the development of clans. It may be left to specialists on the subject. Generally speaking, names such as ours are derived from given names. They suffer variation and mutilation from time to time until some proud scion is prepared to defend with his life the right to retain or omit a final "e" and considers his adopted spelling the ultimate authority. Something may be conceded to earlier illiteracy of the race, indifference or even careless marital habits, but when once fixed, a family feud or an eternal prejudice may be directed against the group using a slightly varied appellation. Thus, READ was never REED or REID to our folks in Clearfield County; yet our SHARPS were sometimes SHARPES and I have noted other variations from the supposedly orthodox names of families. As for McKENRICK, woe be to him who would insert a "d" in this day and generation, whatever may have happened before Andrew.

Having pretty well scanned all available records for enlightenment on forbears, I have thought proper to make note of my findings, even where remote or irrelevant, for whatever value or interest they may have to others.

I quote first from a reference to the name in a series of newspaper articles by Philip Francis Nowlan, which seems intelligent and plausible:-

> "Variations of the name MacKendrick and Kendrick are Andrews, Anderson, Hendry, MacHendry, MacHendrie, etc. All are derived from a given name of English, Scottish or Irish origin. * * Andrews and Anderson, of course, are quite definitely indicated. They are simply developments of 'Andrew's-son' and for the most part of purely English origin, though in many cases they are but Anglicized versions of either Scottish or Irish names. The 'Mac' names in the group are quite as definitely Celtic, but they may be either Irish or Scottish. (The meaning of 'Mac's is 'son of'.) The given name of 'Henry' and 'Eanruig' (Celtic) are often interchanged.
>
> "A northern branch of the Scottish 'Clan Gunn' bears the name of Henderson, traceable to Henry, a son of George Gunn, the 'Crowner' or Coroner, who flourished in the 15th century. A branch of the Clan MacDonald of Glencoe traces its name to one 'Eanruig Mor' a MacDonald chieftain who settled in Kinlochleven in the year 1011. The names McKENDRICK and MacHendry are also borne by branches of the Clan MacNaughton, who trace it to chieftains of their own clan named Henry or Eanruig. Irish development of the name has been similar. Kendrick is a shortened form of MacKendrick, Etc., etc.

It seems clear that no essential distinction may be made between the derivation of Kendrick and Kenrick, or either with the "Mac" added.

One who would adopt the proper tartan or plaid and wear it consistently with tradition should refer to one of many treatises on the subject. "The Scottish Clans and their Tartans" (27" Ed. London 1939) contains plates in color of the plaid of each "clan" and associates the "sept" or branch McKENRICK (or McKendrick) with Clan McNaughton, as well as Clan Henderson.

This book also gives historical derivations and explanations for those who care to delve more deeply into the subject. As many other Scottish lines happen to have converged into our generation, with Alexander, Read (or Reid), Ross, Thompson, MacKnight, or McKnitt (also a sept of McNaughton) Baxter et al., and in my own family Hay (or Hays) Magruder (or MacGregor) and so on, there is almost unlimited choice in color and design of plaids entitled to be worn.

The inclusion of a "d" in our family name has always seemed to me and to my known ancestors, a corruption of the original form "Kenrick" and some satisfaction is to be found in the following definitions:

(From William Arthur's Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names - Pratt Library)

> "KENDRICK - From the Saxon KENRICK, from kennen - to know, and ric - rich, meaning 'rich in knowledge'."

(From Bailey's Dictionary, 8th Ed. 1737)

> "KENRIC - Saxon, cene - bold, and rice - a kingdom; q. d. - A valiant ruler. Also, a king of the West Saxons."

Also the meaning of "to ken" (cennan, Saxon; kennan, Dutch) is given "to know" or "to spy out a distance".; while "ric" (Saxon ryc) is defined as a kingdom.

Only a few Kenricks appear in modern history or biography. One William Kenrick, LL D. (1720-1779) was a writer of some note and references are made to him in literature of the Dr. Johnson period. Others of the name in England may be found. In America there were Francis Patrick Kenrick (1797-1863) Archbishop of Baltimore, and his brother, Peter Richard Kenrick (1806-1896) Bishop of St. Louis; both born in Dublin, Ireland.

In Scotland the name McKendrick has frequently appeared, and the name so spelled has been continuously, though rarely found in America since the eighteenth century. The name is not found in the first census (1790) of Pennsylvania, though there is record of McKendricks there about 1800, immigrants from North Ireland, and there are descendants of one such family settled in Indiana County, Pennsylvania a century ago, still resident there.

Kendricks were numerous in the Philadelphia and Lancaster regions before the Revolution, and this name may be found on many Revolutionary Army rolls, including troops engaged at King's Mountain.

In "Abstract of Records of Augusta County, Va." vol. III (Peabody Lib.) I find one "Patrick McKendrick, as follows:-

> "Deed Book No. 2, page 817, August 21, 1750. Paul Whitley and Sarah to Jonathan Whitley, 200 acres on Buffalo Creek where Paul now lives. Teste: James Hemphill, Jno. Gallbreth, PAT McKENDRICK."

Do. Vol. 1:

> "August 23, 1754. Augusta County Records, Order Book No. IV p. 273, at p. 66, Patrick McKendrick, a witness."

Do. p. 327:

"Commission to take Deposition of Patrick McKendrick and Sarah."

Do. Order Book No. V, p. 23:

"Patrick McKendrick moved out of County."

The above, of course, proves nothing beyond the existence of the parties named and their residence in Augusta County circa 1750-1754, which county at the time extended much farther to the north than at present. The First Census (1790) for Virginia, which is admittedly incomplete, does not show the names McKendrick or McKenrick, but fourteen "Kendricks" are listed as heads of families.

In Penna. Archives, Vol. 13, p. 156 et seq., "Alphabetical List of Revolutionary Soldiers", appears the name,

"McKendrick, Archibald"

This Archibald McKendrick is listed among the "Names of Persons who took the Oath of Allegiance to the Colonies, 1778-1787", prepared by Thompson Westcott and published by John Campbell, Phila., 1865, at p. 39, with the comment:

"a British officer, discharged from
parole, and recommended".

There is no reason to presume any relationship with our line.

While I was engaged in making these notes (August 1942) I entered Judge Coleman's court during a "Naturalization" session and heard the name "McKendrick" called. The individual who responded to take the oath of naturalization at that moment proved to be a young soldier, born in Scotland, lately living in Bridgeport, Connecticut and graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He advised me that there were others of the name in New England, all hailing from Scotland and claiming membership in Clan Campbell. The rarity of the name has always excited my interest when noticed and curiosity has led to the habit of checking court indexes, city directories and the like.

As a final commentary on such unrequited searches, my son, Major Charles Damer McKenrick, writes from "Somewhere in England" January 25, 1943, that

"The London phone directory shows no 'McKenrick', but three 'McKendricks', seven 'Kenricks' and a page full of 'Kendricks'."

So the wonder goes, how we came to be spelled that way, but I will never be swayed by mere numerical influences from the belief that Great-Grandfather was right in holding out for McKENRICK against the pressure to corrupt its perfectly good Scotch and Saxon etymology with a "d".

C. R. McK. February 8, 1943.

JOSEPH FRANCIS McKENRICK

(A sketch read before and filed with the Cambria County Historical Society by Frances McKenrick Davis, December, 1939.)

Joseph Francis McKenrick, who during the last twenty years of his lifetime was an active lawyer at the Cambria County Bar, was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1845, and died at Ebensburg, August 26, 1913.

He was eldest of the eight children of Charles and Barbara (Cole) McKenrick. His grandfather, Andrew McKenrick, born in Maryland in 1787, was of Scottish ancestry. He had married Rachel Baxter, of a Franklin County family and come to the Conococheague section of Adams County to engage in lumbering operations shortly after service in the War of 1812-14 at the Battle of North Point. Later he became a considerable land owner in and about the Buchanan Valley about ten miles northwest of Gettysburg. The son, Charles, eldest of eight children, was associated with his father in lumbering and later pursued farming. The Cole family (originally Kohl) settled in the Valley about 1840. George and Elizabeth (Geltz) Cole had migrated from Berkenour, Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, with four of their children, including Barbara, to the neighboring county of Franklin about 1830. They adopted the American spelling "Cole" upon arrival. Their son Francis was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly and the son George became local postmaster.

The valley colony came to be composed largely of the Cole and McKenrick connections and the natural surroundings were such as to develop a compact and somewhat isolated settlement. Lying close by the South Mountain range, skirted by the hills, studded thickly with virgin pines and hemlocks, the tortuous Conowago Creek winding through its center and a limited amount of arable meadowland within the frame, there was, and still is, a perfect setting for simple community life. Its very confines and restrictions however aroused in an ambitious youth a craving for more active scenes.

Our subject when a boy of sixteen had learned the carpenter's trade, the technique of farming as applied to a rock-imbedded soil and the arts of trapping and hunting which were the chief diversion. No industrial phase beyond sawmills had stirred the rural calm. His early educational advantages were limited to the short sessions at Raccoon School House with very brief courses at the Shippensburg Institute. Being bent upon mental improvement and well equipped physically for a man's work, he naturally sought a broader field.

Coming to Clearfield County in 1865, at a time when the lumber industry on the West Branch was thriving, he pursued his trade or whatever offered in summertime and through assiduous night study prepared himself for school teaching in winter. He had acquired a mastery of tools and a critical sense of good workmanship, which trait was to follow every mental as well as physical endeavor throughout life. He had the ability and the confidence to undertake many of the smaller construction jobs then available and was the architect and builder of numerous barns, schoolhouses and rural churches in the county. Occasionally opportunity offered the thrill of a log drive down the West Branch with the spring floods. Always there was some definite job in sight and a vision of something greater beyond it.

In 1869 he entered Eastman College at Poughkeepsie, New York, for a special course in business training and ornamental penmanship. In June of that year he married Margaret Eleanor Read, daughter of Ross and Mary (Thompson) Read, then living on "The Ridges" of Lawrence Township and who like him aspired toward higher intellectual attainments and was exploring the way through teaching. They met on an occasion when the young "Frank" McKenrick called at the home of Ross Read, a school director, to present his credentials as a teacher. Thenceforth their fates seemed happily sealed. The first two years of married life were spent at Curwensville. Being appointed principal of the Primary Department of the Leonard Graded School at Clearfield about 1873, they moved to the county seat where Mr. McKenrick continued teaching for about five years and, meanwhile, registered as law student in the office of Honorable William A. Wallace, then United States Senator. He was admitted to practice at the Clearfield Bar in 1878. The following year he became a candidate for District Attorney. With a growing family and wholly dependent upon his own resources but possessed of a resolute purpose and a hardy physique, he undertook to canvass the county for votes and managed to cover the remotest rural sections on foot. He gained the election, with re-election for a second term, making six years service in that office. During his incumbency he conducted a number of notable criminal trials, reaching in certain cases the Supreme Court of the State.

He retired to a general civil and criminal practice in 1886 and did not thereafter seek political office. With a solid foundation of experience and a zest for learning, a dignified bearing and a fearless approach toward every problem of law or life he gained and held the kind of reputation and place in the community to which every young lawyer should aspire. Meanwhile he was raising and educating a family of eight children and impressing the influence of worthy ideals upon the home as he pursued them in his own conduct. The wife and mother's share in the home-making was borne dutifully and skillfully, she being every child's mentor in the "three R's" and in music until at least eight years old.

It was in the year 1892, when the neighboring county of Cambria seemed to present a broader prospect through its exceptional industrial activity and growth in population at that period, that Mr. McKenrick opened his office on Centre Street, Ebensburg - that which had formerly been occupied by Judge A. V. Barker. With confidence in Cambria's future and a degree of courage and optimism uncommon at middle age, he brought his family here the following year and cast his lot in a new, and an eminently fair field. The Cambria Bar was at the time conspicuous among the counties of the state for the talent it possessed. Evans, Shoemaker, Kittell, Rose, Martin, O'Connor and Stephens to mention only a few were leaders known throughout the state. Far from regarding this fact as an obstacle to a new entry, it afforded inspiration and incentive to one of liberal mind who preferred association with ability rather than mediocrity, and esteemed talent in an opponent at the bar as highly as judicial wisdom on the bench.

Mr. McKenrick's practice was of an active and varied character, frequently leading to trials on behalf of individual clients but rarely to representation of large corporate and financial interests. He was expert in criminal, land, probate and municipal law, representing a number of the boroughs of the County. He was always alert and aggressive in the assertion of individual rights, but hesitant toward the technical and unsubstantial points that tend to trap the unwary or impede common justice.

Lacking mercenary instincts and being singularly unmindful of even innocent opportunities for personal profit in an era of rapid industrial and financial activities, he adjusted his conduct in accordance with high ethical and intellectual standards, living always within a close competence and leaving only a modest estate, but a splendid heritage of duty performance and irreproachable behavior.

Mr. McKenrick's memory is marked not only by the impress of his legal talents and forceful personality but for his public spirit and unselfish participation in community affairs. The schools, the fire company, the county fair, the town band, the institutes, the lecture courses, the patriotic celebrations and the many recreational activities which tended to make town life both delightful at the moment and permanently profitable were all objects of his interest and support.

Essentially a home lover with an inbred love of good order and neatness the house and garden shared interest with his library. He was sensitive to a lack of seasonable care of fruit and flowers, to neglect of mechanical defects as he was to any failure to thoroughly prepare a case, or to the omission of essential reading.

In 1909 his youngest son Ivan J. having been admitted to the Bar joined him as a law partner which congenial association continued to the time of his death, the junior member thus fortunately deriving the benefit of his influence and tutelage at the formative period of his career, when an eventual judgeship for the son could have been no more than a parent's unvoiced wish.

In politics Mr. McKenrick was a Democrat and in religion a devout Roman Catholic. At the time of his death he was a master fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus.

Until stricken by his fatal illness Mr. McKenrick had enjoyed unbroken health. He was a man of strong and impressive physique, over 6 feet in height and capable of exceptional mental and physical effort. Death came on August 26, 1913 in his 69th year. Mrs. Margaret Eleanor (Read) McKenrick survived her husband, her death occurring at Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1922. She was born September 21, 1843 in Lawrence Twp., Clearfield County, where her great grandfathers Alexander Read and Benjamin Jordan, both Revolutionary soldiers and her grandfather Ignatius Thompson all originally from Maryland with many interrelated Scotch Irish families had settled in the section known as "The Ridges" before and shortly after the formation of Clearfield County in 1805.

The eight children of this union, all of whom are living at this time, December 1939, are:

Paul L. McKenrick, of Kittanning, Pennsylvania
Frances R. (Mrs. Emory H. Davis) of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Lula J. (Mrs. Dudley B. Lytle) of York, Nebraska
Blanche M. (Mrs. James S. Dick) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Carl Ross McKenrick, of Baltimore, Maryland
Leo F. McKenrick, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
Judge Ivan J. McKenrick, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
M. Elsie (Mrs. John K. Mentzer) of Brooklyn, New York

By C. R. McK., 1939

CARL ROSS McKENRICK

Carl Ross McKenrick, son of Joseph Francis and Margaret Eleanor Read McKenrick, was born July 29, 1880, at Clearfield, Pennsylvania. His parents moved to Ebensburg in the adjacent county of Cambria in 1893, at which time he was ready for high school. A substantial part of his education was provided by a visit to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in that year, through the generosity of his elder brother Paul, then employed at Middlesborough, Kentucky. He sold papers and took whatever odd jobs were offered, but spent most of his spare time in his father's law office. Opportunity arose for a bit of court reporting for the city papers and he had early familiarity with the machinery of courts.

After graduating from Ebensburg High School in 1895, he attended Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York, completing business and stenographic courses. Thenceforth his education was furthered through reading and observing, without the benefit of systematic instruction. His first paying position was in the City of New York during the fall of 1896 during the McKinley-Bryan presidential campaign. There were exceptional opportunities to hear great political orators, prominent ministers, good music, and become familiar with the wonders of the city, all grasped with youthful enthusiasm. Later he had employment in Pittsburgh, El Paso, Denver and Los Angeles with various concerns, including The Pullman Company and Southern Pacific Company and thus satisfied his besetting desire for travel and financial independence. The ultimate object of college education was defeated with arrival in Baltimore in 1901 and an early meeting with his future wife. This encounter with Fate brought many compensating benefits, however. After nearly two years with the Standard Oil Company he entered the law office of J. Kemp Bartlett, Esq., as secretary and office manager. Following marriage July 25, 1903, with Letitia Damer Sandys, as otherwise noted, he entered law school of the University of Maryland, passed the State bar examination in 1909, and received his law degree in 1910.

In 1916 he became a member of the firm of Bartlett, Poe & Claggett, continuing as such until 1928. Having then actively conducted the organization of the Fidelity and Guaranty Fire Corporation - a four million dollar concern - he became its Secretary-Treasurer at the solicitation of his friend and associate R. Howard Bland. With organizational activities completed and the Company operating in all the states, routine duties of the office palled. In 1930 he resigned to engage in the independent practice of law, a more congenial field. In 1931 he was made vice president and treasurer of the Peoples Fire Insurance Company of Frederick, Maryland, for the purpose of liquidating that concern over a period of two years. May 1, 1934, he was appointed Deputy United States Attorney for the District of Maryland under Bernard J. Flynn, Esq., which office he still holds at this writing, August 1949. This has been a thoroughly happy association, with important work well suited to his taste and training.

The subject had many hobbies, which he rode hard - the piano and music generally, gardening, photography, antique collecting, woodcraft, and American history. Some of these threatened to become ruling passions, but economic needs prevented and the fads only served to season the duller but more remunerative employments. In his main ambition, to be a writer of good English prose, he was a disappointment to himself.

McKENRICK - SANDYS

Carl Ross McKenrick and Letitia Eleanora Damer Sandys were married July 25, 1903, at the farm home of her elderly and devoted cousin, Mrs. Temperance Ellen Talbott (1815-1906) at Lutherville, Baltimore County, Maryland, by Rev. John T. Whelan.

On the maternal side the subject was descended from families long resident in Maryland, her mother being Eleanora Trail, daughter of Frederick Mortimer and Louise Temperance Marsh Trail. Reference is made to notes, copies of wills and record data relating to the Trail, Hays, Marsh and Harryman families prepared by this compiler. The paternal lines, originating in England and Ireland, Sandys, Cole, Eyre and others, are also fully covered elsewhere.

Through early orphanhood, the subject lost for a time association with relatives other than the Baltimore County group of which Cousin Ellen Talbott was the central figure. She was the mother of Congressman J. Fred C. Talbott. Later associations were developed with cousins on the paternal side both at home and abroad.

The wife Letitia, familiarly "Letty", was born February 5, 1877, at Baltimore, Maryland. Her father, John Stratford Damer Sandys, who married Eleanora L. Trail November 28, 1873, was born at Petersburg, Virginia, April 8, 1838, the son of Thomas Stratford and Jane Weichsel Damer Sandys. Thomas Stratford Sandys was the son of Abraham and Maria Johnson Eyre Sandys, of Dublin, Ireland, and is mentioned in his mother's will, probated 1870, a copy of which is embodied in the history of that family. Abraham Sandys (1754-1832), whose will was probated 1850, was a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, and son of Rev. Abraham Sandys (1723-1771), minor canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, who married Hester Cocking. The Irish branch of Sandys is allied with the English, of whom Archbishop Sandys (1518-1588) and his son Sir Edwin Sandys (1561-1629) are distinguished members.

Upon taking up residence in America, first at Petersburg, Virginia, about 1838, and later at Baltimore, Thomas Stratford Sandys adopted the surname Damer, although the Sandys relationship was never disputed nor the line of descent questioned. The use of the surname Sandys was later revived by his family.

John Stratford Damer Sandys, upon coming of age in 1859, went to England and established his right to a substantial inheritance, as his elder sister Letitia Hannah had done. John Stratford returned to Baltimore at the outbreak of war between the States in 1861 and July 13, 1861 enlisted in the First Maryland Artillery (C.S.A.) known as Dement's Battery, and served for the duration. (See roster Goldsborough's "Maryland Line," p. 270 and other Confederate records).

Some years ago (1907) Dr. Steiner Schley, of Frederick, Maryland, advised this compiler that he was acquainted with John S. Damer as a student at the old Frederick Academy about 1850-1855. About the same time, Mr. Damer's sister Letitia Hannah, was attending the Patapsco Female Institute conducted by Mrs. Almira Lincoln Phelps at (now) Ellicott City, Maryland, where she graduated in 1856. Their father, Thomas Stratford Damer, known as Professor Damer, was then living in Baltimore and active in musical circles.

(See Scharf's History of Baltimore City and County, p. 673). His wife Jane Weichsel died in the 1840's and he later married Miss Alcinda Crowe, of Virginia. He removed to Greensboro, Alabama, with his remaining family soon after the outbreak of war between the States. Letitia Hannah, who had gone to England to claim her inheritance, did not return. She married Reverend Benjamin Nicholas White-Spunner, of Belfast, Ireland, and remained there throughout a long lifetime, dying in 1911 at the age of 76. Our correspondence with her in advanced age is highly treasured. She left numerous descendants residing in England and Ireland. Her eldest son, Charles T. N. White-Spunner, raised a large family in Mobile, Alabama, to all of whom we felt closely attached.

Thomas Stratford Damer Sandys died at Greensboro, Alabama 1865. The late Eyre Damer, of Mobile, Mrs. Flora Fitts, of Selma and Mrs. Juliet Pickens, wife of James Pickens of "Umbria" near Greensboro, Alabama, were descendants of his later marriage. There have been intimate associations with the Alabama cousins since a first visit in 1911 to Mobile and the ante-bellum plantation "Umbria."

Traditionally, John Stratford met his spouse, Eleanora Trail, during his residence in Frederick, Maryland. She died in Baltimore about 1879. He had suffered physical incapacity over a long period following war injuries and died August 1, 1897. He was buried in the Confederate Veterans' lot at Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore.

The descendants of John Stratford and Eleanora Trail Damer Sandys are Grace Maria Nygren, wife of John Edward Nygren, and Letitia Eleanora, wife of Carl Ross McKenrick, of Baltimore.

CHILDREN OF CARL ROSS AND LETITIA D. S. McKENRICK

1. Charles Damer McKenrick, born April 18, 1904, at 326 East 20th Street, Baltimore

2. Letitia Read McKenrick, born February 5, 1906, at 221 East Lafayette Avenue, Baltimore

3. Francis Ross McKenrick, born February 17, 1907, at 221 East Lafayette Avenue, Baltimore. Died August 16, 1907, at Pikesville, Maryland. Buried at Druid Ridge Cemetery (Lot No. 313).

4. Stratford Eyre McKenrick, born July 30, 1913 at Paradise Lane, Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland

McKENRICK - WOODWARD

Letitia Read McKenrick married Hiram Woods Woodward, son of Richard Henley and Elizabeth Woods Woodward, October 29, 1925, at Christ P. E. Church, Baltimore. Rev. Murray Dewart officiated.

Their children:

1. Letitia Sandys Woodward born September 2, 1926, at Hospital for Women, John Street, Baltimore.
2. Elizabeth Woods Woodward born December 11, 1928, at Hospital for Women.
3. Helen McKenrick Woodward born July 3, 1930, (in Packard car enroute to) Hospital for Women.
4. Jane Henley Woodward born August 31, 1938, at Union Memorial Hospital. Died suddenly Sunday March 5, 1939, at 812 Bellemore Road, Baltimore. Buried in Woodward lot, Druid Ridge Cemetery.
5. Hiram Woods Woodward, Jr. ("Woody") born August 15, 1940, at Hospital for Women.
6. Carol Ross Woodward born July 4, 1945, at Hospital for Women.

Note on Woodward

Richard Henley Woodward, born in Virginia September 6, 1864, was the son of Richard Henley Woodward, whose wife was a daughter of Captain John Pollard, of Virginia. He graduated at Virginia Military Institute, Class of 1887. Married, (1) January 1894 Elizabeth Woods, daughter of Hiram Woods of Baltimore, who died 1899. Their issue, Hiram W. b. 1894, and Richard H. Jr. born 1896. He married (2) Margaret Stuart. Issue, Margaret, who m. Edward Waesche, and Stuart, who married Matilda Matthews. Richard Henley Woodward died at Manchester, Maryland, March 13, 1948 in his 84th year. Buried at Druid Ridge Cemetery.

WOODWARD - BARTLETT

Letitia Sandys Woodward daughter of Hiram Woods and Letitia McKenrick Woodward, married John Kemp Bartlett, 3rd, son of J. Kemp and Katherine Simons Bartlett, Jr., at St. David's P. E. Church, Roland Park, Baltimore, September 7, 1946. Rev. (later Bishop) Richard T. Loring and Rev. Richard H. Baker officiated.

Note on Bartlett

John Kemp Bartlett, 3rd was born July 14, 1923, at Woodbrook, Baltimore County, Maryland. Educated Gilman Country School and Princeton, A.B., Class of 1946. Served with 255th Field Artillery Battalion, 3rd U. S. Army in World War II. Eighteen months in European Area.

His grandfather, J. Kemp Bartlett, Sr. (1863-1948) was the close friend of this compiler, who entered his office as law clerk and secretary in 1902 and from 1916 to 1928 was partner in his law firm, Bartlett, Poe and Claggett, which included his sons, Robert Dixon and J. Kemp Jr. Friendly relations continued after I became an official of the Fidelity and Guaranty Fire Corporation in 1928 and later when engaged in independent law practice. Since 1928 our son Charles Damer has been associated with the Bartlett firm, having become a partner after return from military service in 1945. By that time the elder Bartlett had retired to his farm home in Talbot County. The fact that his grandson was to marry our granddaughter seemed a very happy turn of fate to the Bartletts and ourselves when we met at "Lombardy" on the occasion of our last visit with them in August 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett throughout our own married life stood foremost among our friends as models of character and gentility. J. Kemp, Sr. died October 20, 1948. A genealogy of the Bartletts appears in Maryland Historical Quarterly for September 1946, pp. 236-8.

C. R. McK.

CHARLES DAMER McKENRICK

Charles Damer McKenrick, son of Carl Ross and Letitia Damer Sandys McKenrick, was born April 18, 1904, at 326 East 20th Street, Baltimore. He attended Catonsville High School, Baltimore City College and Laurenceville (New Jersey) School (1920-1922). He entered Princeton University, as a member of the Class of 1926. In his Junior year he left to enter the University of Virginia, graduating from the Law School in 1928. He then became associated with the firm of Bartlett, Poe and Claggett at Baltimore in the active practice of law. In November 1930 he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates on the Democratic ticket from the Fifth Legislative District of Baltimore for a four year term.

He became actively interested in the Maryland National Guard at an early date. About 1930 while commissioned as First Lieutenant in the 110th Field Artillery, he resigned and enlisted in the Fifth Maryland Infantry Regiment. At the time of mobilization for the Second World War, February 1941, he had become Captain of a newly created "Anti-Tank" Company of the Fifth Maryland, which thenceforth became the 175th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division, United States Army. On the eve of departure for overseas service about October 1942, he was commissioned Major. His period of European service was October 5, 1942 to August 24, 1945, at completion of which he held commission as Lt. Colonel. The following is quoted from official records, U. S. Army:

Charles Damer McKenrick born 18 April 1904

Entered active service 3 February 1941. Relieved 18 February 1946.

Grade 20 months Captain, Infantry Co. C.O. 29th Division
38 " Major, Infantry Battalion, C.O. 29th Division
" Inspector General
2 " Lt. Colonel on terminal leave.

Official Summary of Occupations:

As Infantry Unit Commander, commanded anti-tank company of an infantry regiment and battalion of infantry regiment. Responsible for training and discipline of battalion in an overseas theatre, 35 officers and 1000 enlisted men.
As Inspector General: Investigations and inspections for overseas base section commands in overseas theatre.
European Theatre of Operations 5 October 1942 to 24 August, 1945, inclusive.

Upon relief from active military service in 1945 he resumed the practice of law at Baltimore, becoming a member of the firm of Bartlett, Poe and Claggett.

McKENRICK - HOWSON

Charles Damer McKenrick married Elizabeth Howson, daughter of Charles Henry and May Yeatts Howson, at Wayne, Pennsylvania, Presbyterian Church April 18, 1938, Rev. Charles Schall officiated.

Their children:

1. Elizabeth Howson McKenrick, born January 8, 1939 at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.
2. Ann Damer McKenrick born January 7, 1942, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.
3. Alice _______ McKenrick, born March 9, 1943, at Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Hospital.

STRATFORD EYRE McKENRICK

Stratford Eyre McKenrick, son of Carl Ross and Letitia Damer Sandys McKenrick, was born July 30, 1913, at Paradise Lane, Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland. He attended Miss Crosby's, and Calvert Primary Schools, Boys Latin School and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, receiving a diploma from the latter in June 1931. He entered Johns Hopkins University that year and received his B.S. degree in 1935. He had meanwhile engaged in the life insurance business with Robert H. Walker of the Provident Life Insurance Co.

During this association he entered the University of Maryland law school and graduated with the degree LL.B. in 1939. He became a member of the Maryland Bar in 1940. At the time of his marriage April 6, 1940, with Keith McClung Price he was an insurance loss adjuster. Mobilization for the second World War was soon to follow.

Stratford had enlisted in the 110th field Artillery at Pikesville, Maryland during his minority about 1932. He received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant upon coming of age July 1934 and as 1st Lieutenant April 26, 1938. After mobilization of this unit in February 1941 he was commissioned Captain. His period of service in Europe was October 5, 1942 to October 23, 1945. The following is quoted from official records, U. S. Army:

Stratford Eyre McKenrick, born 30 July, 1913.

Entered active service 3 February 1941. Relieved 23 April, 1946.

Grade, Captain, Field Artillery 29th Division
Major, Civil Affairs Administration
Lt. Colonel, Claims Officer

Battles and Campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe.

Decorations and Citations:
Purple Heart G. O. 26 Hq. 115th G. H. 44
World War II Victory medal.
European African Middle Eastern Service medal.
American Service medal.
Bronze Star medal G.O. 581 Hq. 7th Army 1945
Bronze Arrowhead
Presidential Unit Citation

Wounds received in action, 20 February 1944, European Theatre Operation.

European Theatre of Operations 5 Oct. 1942 to 23 Oct. 1945.

Following demobilization and a survey of civilian fields he concluded to engage in the practice of law in Baltimore County. His first association was with H. Courtenay Jenifer, Esq. (Jenifer & Jenifer) at Towson, Maryland, near his established residence at Ruxton. He is a vestryman of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Ruxton.

McKENRICK - PRICE

Stratford Eyre McKenrick married Keith McClung Price, daughter of J. Harry and Minnie McClung Price, deceased, at St. John's P. E. Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 6, 1940. The Rev. J. B. Bernardin officiated.

Their children:

1. Keith Price McKenrick born August 6, 1946, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore
2. Anne McClung McKenrick born October 6, 1948, at Johns Hopkins Hospital

See "Note on James White and Charles McClung" post.

McKENRICK - PRICE

Stratford Eyre McKenrick married Keith McClung Price, daughter of J. Harry and Minnie McClung Price, deceased, at St. John's P. E. Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, April 6, 1940. The Rev. J. B. Bernardin officiated.

Their children:

1. Keith Price McKenrick born August 6, 1946, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore
2. Anne McClung McKenrick born October 6, 1948, at Johns Hopkins Hospital

See "Note on James White and Charles McClung" post.

MEMORANDUM OF WILLS, RECORDS, ETC.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER (father of James). Will probated 9 March 1730 (Cecil Co. AA-1/222)

JAMES ALEXANDER (father of Amos). Will dated June 17, 1772. Probated Cecil Co., Maryland, May 31, 1779. (CC-3/100)

AMOS ALEXANDER (father of Jemima). Will dated August 26, 1779. Probated Cecil County, Maryland, May 1, 1780. (CC-3/141). Buried at Head of Christiana Cemetery (near Newark, New Castle County, Delaware). Tomb of his son, Walter Alexander, Captain Revolutionary Army who died in 1778, is alongside.

SARAH SHARP ALEXANDER (widow of Amos, mother of Jemima). Will dated October 26, 1801. Probated Cecil County, Maryland, April 6, 1802. (FF-6/275)

JOHN READ (father of Alexander Read). Will dated October 2, 1793. Probated March 6, 1794. (Cecil Co. EF-5/334).

THOMAS SHARP, SR. (father of Sarah, wife of Amos Alexander). Will probated December 7, 1749. (Cecil Co. EE-2/84).

WALTER ALEXANDER was "Captain Fourth Maryland Battalion of the Flying Camp, July to December, 1776".
References: "Historical Register of Officers in Continental Army" p. 66 (Peabody Library, Baltimore); Archives of Maryland, Vol. 18, pp. 61-62; "Proceedings of Convention of Province of Maryland, 1776 (June 29, 1776) pp. 177-178.

ALEXANDER READ, private in Company of Captain Richard Smith, Flying Camp, Maryland. List of enrollments dated October 15, 1776. Maryland Archives Vol. 18, pp. 647-648. Also Vol. 12, p. 352

AMOS ALEXANDER. In Scharf's History of Maryland, Vol. 3, Appendix "List of Justices of the County Courts, at the first Organization of the State Government in 1777: CECIL COUNTY, 'AMOS ALEXANDER'." Also see Appointments as Justice 1774-1776, in Cecil County Records at Elkton, Liber 14/10-165-220

BENJAMIN JORDAN. Ensign, 3rd Battalion, Northumberland County Militia March 13, 1776, (Pa. Archives 5th Series Vol. 8 p. 653) under Lt. Col. James Murray. Also private, muster roll of Capt. Cookson Long's Company of 2nd Bat. Northumberland Co. Militia under Col. James Potter, December 3, 1776 (Pa. Archives ibid p. 646.) Also see "Annals of Buffalo Valley", Linn. pp. 104-5.

JOHN POTTER, First Sheriff of Cumberland County, Pa. at organization 1750 Captain in command of Forts, Juniata Valley 1750-1756, Armstrong Expedition, etc. References: Penna. Archives, Colonial Records, Vols. 5 and 6; "Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania"; "History of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Adams and Perry Counties" by I. Daniel Rupp (Lancaster, 1846); "Indian Wars of Penna." by C. Hale Sipe (Harrisburg, 1929). "Chronicle of the Bards" (Chambersburg, 1908)

WILL OF JOSEPH ALEXANDER

Recorded in "Wills" Cecil County, "AA-1, Folio 222.

In the Name of God Amen. To all Christian people to whom these presents shall come, greeting; Know ye that I, Joseph Alexander, of New Munster in Cecil County in the Province of Maryland, Taner, being sick and weak in body but through the mercy of God sound and perfect in my understanding, judgment and memory, have made this my last will and testament as follows:

First, I give and bequeath to my son in law Elias Alexander a sarton bond as signed to me by Sarah Steven bearing date of 19 of August 1718, except so much as is already paid and 40 shilens to my daughter Sophiah.

Item, I will and bequeath to my son Francis 20 shillings. To my daughter Jane (Macky?) 10 shillings. To my daughter Abigail Ciapan 10 shillings.

Item: All and singular the rest of my estate, real and moveable of whatever denomination, nature or kind soever, I will and bequeath to my son JAMES, his heirs and assigns forever. And I do also appoint, ordain and constitute the said James Alexander to be Executor of this my last will and testament.

Witness my hand and seal this 13th day of December Anno 1726.

Joseph Alexander (Seal)

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of

Owen O'Donnel
her
Anne x Taylor
mark
John Dail
his
John x McKnight
mark

Probated 9 March 1730

Personally appeared John MacKnite and Ann Taylor, two of the subscribing witnesses and made oath, etc., before S. Knight, D. Commr.

(Note the attesting witness is John MacKnite, referred to elsewhere herein as a brother-in-law of James Alexander. John MacKnite's will was probated June 13, 1733. I am satisfied that the above spelling of Jane's name "Macky" is incorrect but my examination of the original will leaves the real name doubtful. C. R. McK.)

WILL OF JAMES ALEXANDER

Recorded in Cecil County "Wills" CC-3, Folio 100

In the Name of God Amen: The 17th day of June A.D. 1772, I, James Alexander, of Cecil County in Maryland, yeoman, being of sound mind and memory, thanks to God, but calling to mind my mortal state, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, viz: I give my soul unto the hand of God who gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in a decent manner at the discretion of my executors, and touching such worldly goods wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with, I dispose of the same in the following manner:

Imprimus: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Abigail, my bed and bedding and one cow, and whereas there is a contract of marriage in writing between us, wherein I obliged myself to give her the sum of sixty pounds at my death, and she obliged herself to take it in room of her dowry, it is my will and pleasure that she have it, with the things above mentioned, as also house room and firewood leave, and the use of a small meadow before my door, as likewise my barn meadows, as long as she pleases to occupy them herself.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved grandson George Alexander, his heirs and assigns, all the following part of my land, to wit: Beginning at a marked chestnut tree standing on the east side of the Great Road eight perches to the north of the head of my orchard, thence running south eighty-nine degrees east to the mouth of a small run that flows into Christeen, thence north seventy degrees east until it intersects the outside line of my land, thence north along my land to a marked chestnut standing on the south bank of Christeen, thence north northwest to a marked chestnut tree, thence west by the lands of John Alexander to the above said Great Road, thence southward along the said Great Road to the place of beginning. Together with all the improvements or appurtenances thereunto belonging, except a dam of stream for watering meadows as it now stands on the lower part of Christeen within the above premises and is here excepted.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Josiah Alexander, his heirs and assigns, all the following part of my land, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of a small run on the east side of Elk River, next above Huckleberry Hill, thence running on a straight line to a mulberry tree standing on the great road and bearing due east fifty-three perches from the spring of the above said run, thence northward by said road until it intersects the outside line of my lands, thence west by lands of John Robison and Joseph Young to a marked white oak on the bank of Elk River, thence down the same the several courses thereof to the first beginning. Together with all the improvements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, and also the bed and bedding he now lies in and also one-third part of all the pewter dishes and iron pots about my house, and also one black heifer and also one black horse.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son AMOS ALEXANDER, his heirs and assigns, all the remaining part of my lands and tenements lying in New Munster, with all the improvements thereon, with the water leave above excepted.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Ezekiel Alexander, his heirs and assigns, all that tract of land lying on Long Creek in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, together with all the improvements thereon, together with one year old horse colt and also ten pounds in money. And it is my will that if my son Ezekiel dies in his minority, then the above land given to him to be the property of my two grandsons, viz: James Alexander, son of Hezekiah Alexander and Amos Alexander, son of Amos Alexander, and given to them when they shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years, and to be equally divided between them according to quantity and quality.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son Hezekiah Alexander the sum of five pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son John McNit Alexander the sum of five pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Jemima Sharp the sum of forty pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Elizabeth Sample the sum of five pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Abigail Bradley the sum of five pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter Margaret McCoy the sum of five pounds.

And it is further my will and pleasure that all the remainder of my estate be equally divided among all my children, viz: HEZEKIAH, AMOS, JOHN, JOSIAH, EZEKIEL, JEMIMA, ELIZABETH, ABIGAIL and MARGARET. And I do hereby constitute and appoint my two sons Amos Alexander and Josiah Alexander and Hezekiah South my only and sole Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and testaments, gifts and legacies, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed, delivered, pronounced and published by the said James Alexander as his last will and testament in presence of the subscribers:

James Alexander (Seal)

John Alexander
Andrew Work
John McGregor

Probated May 31, 1779.

(Note: Another son, Theophilus, father of George, predeceased James. See Will herein (1768). Abigail was James' second wife, first wife being Margaret McKnitt (McNit - McKnight).)

CHILDREN OF JAMES ALEXANDER

(From the sum total of information to date, including the chart or "tree" prepared by Dr. Sidney Meeker, there appear to have been 15 children, viz:

1. Theophilus	b. 1715 d. 1768	m. Catherine ____
2. Jemima	b. 1716	d.s.p.
3. Edith	b. 1718	d.s.p.
4. Keziah	b. 1720 d. 1750	m. Walter Sharp (one daughter Keziah)
5. Hezekiah	b. 1722 d. 1801	m. Mary Sample (about 12 children)
6. Ezekiel	b. 1725	d.s.p.
7. Jemima	b. 1727 d. 1797	m. John Sharp (who d. 1759) (6 chil.)
8. AMOS	b. 1729 d. 1780	m. SARAH SHARP (who d. 1802) (12 chil.)
9. John McKnitt	b. 1733 d. 1817	m. Jane Bain (about 6 chil.)
10. Margaret	b. 1736	d.s.p.
11. Elizabeth	b. 1746	m. W. A. Sample (about 10 chil.)
12. Abigail	b. 1748	m. Francis Bradley (about 5 chil.)
13. Margaret	b. 1750	m. - - McCoy (about 6 chil.)
14. Josiah	b. 1752	m. Mildred Orr
15. Ezekiel	b. 1754	m. - - - (about 4 chil.)

(Nos. 1-10 by first wife Margaret McKnitt; 11-15 by second wife Abigail -

Among families with which descendants of James Alexander intermarried (as indicated on the chart or "tree") are Cannon, Caldwell, Cathey Carruthers, Davidson, Davies, Evans, Price, McCoy, McClung, McCracken, McReynolds, Garrison, Johnston, Henderson, Barry, Polk, Robinson, Wallace, Orr, Bradley, Ramsey, Winslow and Wilson. Most of these are of the North Carolina branches.

C. R. McKenrick, June 1942.

WILL OF AMOS ALEXANDER (1779) 1780

(from office of Register of Wills for Cecil County, Maryland. At Elkton, Liber CC-3 folio 141.)

In the name of God, Amen. I, Amos Alexander, Esq., of Cecil County, being weak in body but of sound mind, memory and understanding, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, to wit:

1. I recommend my soul to the hands of God who gave it and my body to be buried in a decent Christianlike manner at the discretion of my Executors.

In primus: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah, one-third part of all my moveable estate and that she should further have the income of my mills and plantation whereon they stand until my son Amos arrives at the age of twenty-one years in order to enable her to bring up the children without lessening their portions, and also her right of Dowry to the whole during life.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved grandson Robert Alexander, son of Walter Alexander, the sum of three hundred pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Rachel the sum of sixteen hundred pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Ruth, the sum of fourteen hundred pounds and the mare commonly called H---.

Item: I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Dorcas, the sum of sixteen hundred pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved sons Amos and Mark, their heirs and assigns forever, all that plantation or tract of land which I purchased of John Passmore, together with all the mills and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and it is my further will that my son Amos should be put in possession of the said plantation and mills and to receive the profits of his half when he arrives at 21 years of age, and the profits of Mark's half to go to my wife Sarah for the support of the children until the said Mark arrives at the age of 21 years. I likewise give to my said Amos and Mark the sum of eight hundred pounds each, to be paid to them when they respectively arrive at the age of 21 years.

Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughter Sarah the sum of sixteen hundred pounds, to be paid when she arrives at the age of 21 years. Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughter Margaret the sum of sixteen hundred pounds, to be paid when she arrives at the age of 16 years.

Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved son James, his heirs and assigns forever, all the plantation or tract of land I now live on, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise

appertaining; also the sum of eight hundred pounds to be paid when he arrives at the age of 21 years. And it is further my will and pleasure that in case either of my sons should die before they arrive at the respective ages when they are to receive their portions, then and in that case their portion both real and personal to be equally divided between the surviving sons, or son, their heirs and assigns forever. And it is my further will and pleasure that in case either of my two youngest daughters should die before they arrive at the age of 16 years, then their portions to be equally divided amongst all my surviving daughters.

Item: I give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my personal estate after my just debts, funeral expenses and the above legacies be paid, to be equally divided among all my children, to wit, PRISCILLA, RACHEL JEMIMA, RUTH, MARY, DORCAS, AMOS, SARAH, MARK, MARGARET and JAMES, share and share alike. And lastly, I do constitute and appoint my dear wife Sarah and my son-in-law ALEXANDER READ, and trusty nephew George Alexander to be sole executors of this my last will and testament.

In testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 26th day of August, 1779.

AMOS ALEXANDER (Seal)

Signed, sealed, published and delivered by the said Amos Alexander, as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request, and in his presence, have subscribed our names as witnesses:

Robert Willson
Josiah Alexander
William Johnston
Hezekiah South

Cecil County, May 1, 1780. Then came Sarah Alexander, Alexander Read and George Alexander and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God that the within instrument of writing is the true and whole will and testament of Amos Alexander, late of this County, deceased, that hath come to their hands or possession and that they do not know of any other.

Sworn before David Smith, Register of Wills

Also oaths of Josiah Alexander and Hezekiah South, as attesting witnesses.

- - - - -

WILL OF SARAH ALEXANDER 1801 (1802)

(From Office of Register of Wills, Cecil County, at Elkton, Maryland)
Liber FF-6 folio 275.

In the name of God, Amen: I, Sarah Alexander, of Cecil County, (widow) being weak in body, but of sound mind, memory and understanding, doth make and ordain this my last will and testament, in manner and form following, to wit:-

I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it, and my body to be buried in a decent Christianlike manner, at the discretion of my Executors.

In primus: I give and bequeath to each of my well beloved sons, to wit, Amos, Mark and James, the sum of one dollar.

Item: I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughters, to wit, Priscilla, Rachel, Jemima, Ruth, Mary, Dorcas, Sarah and Margaret, all the residue and remainder of my estate, after my just debts and funeral expenses, and the above legacies, are paid, to be equally divided among them, share and share alike.

And lastly, I do constitute and appoint my well beloved son, James, to be sole Executor of this, my last will and testament, revoking and annulling all former wills, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 26th October, 1801.

Sarah Alexander (Seal)

Witnesses:

*Josiah Alexander
*John Scott.

Probated April 6, 1802.

(Note, by C. R. McK.: The witness Josiah Alexander was probably the testatrix' brother-in-law. The name of the witness, John Scott appears as a resident of North Millford Hundred, Cecil County in First Census (1790).)

WILL OF JOHN READ

(From Office of Register of Wills, Cecil County, Maryland, at Elkton, Liber EF-5 Folio 334)

In the name of God, Amen, I, John Read, of North Millford Hundred, Cecil County, State of Maryland, being in a sick and low condition but of sound and disposing memory, after commending my soul to God in hopes of mercy, through my blessed Redeemer, and my body to the dust, do dispose of my worldly goods in way and manner following, viz.:

In primus, I order that my funeral charges and just debts be discharged.

Second: I will and bequeath my negro boy Sam, now hired to Dr. White, to my beloved grandson, John R. Read, son of Alexander Read, to be his property until the said negro boy be 28 years of age, and then to be free, and also my negro boy Caesar to him until he arrives at 30 years of age and then to be free.

Third: All the remainder of my property, real and personal, I will and bequeath to my beloved son, Alexander Read, ordering at the same time that he or his heirs or assigns shall not keep my negro girl Ann in servitude longer than she arrive at 27 years of age, that at that period she be free. Lastly, I do hereby revoke all other wills and testaments by me made, and do hereby appoint my beloved son, Alexander Read, Executor of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 2nd day of October, 1793.

(Signed) John Read

Signed, sealed and delivered
in presence of
Archibald Dysart *
William Hutchison *

Probated March 6, 1794. Same date Alexander Read qualified as Executor.

(Note: Examination of original will discloses initial "R" (for Ross) inserted after name of grandson. Identity of "Dr. White" not established.

*Names of both witnesses to this Will appear as "heads of families" in North Millford Hundred, Cecil Co., Md., First Census of U.S.1790. Archibald Dysart was evidently a tavern-keeper. Chap. 167 Acts of 1810 (Md.) provided for construction of a road "from Archibald Dysart's tavern to Penna. line by Lund's tavern".
Dysart's tavern still stands (1940) at Appleton cross roads. Conducted by a member of Dysart family until recent years. Now a store and filling station. It is immediately contiguous to John Read's lands. -- C. R. McK.)

Various Conveyances establishing Locations and Relationships
(From Office Clerk Cecil Co., Maryland, Land Records)

Vol. 18 Folio 350. DEED, ALEXANDER READ to John Scott
Dated April 4, 1794.

ALEXANDER READ, of North Millford Hundred, Cecil County, Md., Planter, to John Scott of the same Hundred, doth acquit,
(1) release and discharge the said John Scott, his heirs and assigns, and confirm unto the said John Scott all that part of a tract of land in Cecil County, called New Munster, which the said Alexander Read purchased of William Read by Indenture dated January 6, 1784, and recorded in the land records of Cecil County in Liber B.W. No. 1, folio 285, etc., except eight (8) acres part thereof on the west side this day sold to John Evans,// and all those two parts of the aforesaid tract called New Munster whereof JOHN READ, father of the
(2) said Alexander Read, died seized, and by his last will and testament, duly proven and now remaining in the Registry of Wills in Cecil County, lately devised to him, the said Alexander Read, that is to say, a small lot he, the said John, had purchased from Hezekiah South, by Indenture dated July 2, 1773,// and another lot containing twenty-three (23) acres, part of a parcel of land containing 40 acres purchased
(3) by the said John Read from William Semple and Esther, his wife, by Indenture dated the 5th day of June, 1742;// and also all that tract of land called "Alexander's Lott" (adjoining the above mentioned lots) parts of New Munster as afore-
(4) said granted unto a certain Mark Alexander by Patent bearing date the 17th October, 1769, and sold as the estate of the said Mark Alexander by Richard Bond, Sheriff, as by Indenture bearing date the 10th February, 1784, and recorded in the Land Records of Cecil County in Liber B.W. No. 1, folio 299, etc. appears, which tract is called "Alexander's Lott" the said Alexander Read hath now surveyed, together with the above mentioned lot, part of New Munster, sold and conveyed as aforesaid in one survey, 'butted and bounded as follows:-

Beginning at a stone set in the old line of New Munster, where stood an old maple, the beginning of William Read's land, sold as aforesaid to Alexander Read, etc., Containing 195 acres, etc.

(Signed) ALEX. READ (SEAL)

Witnesses:
Tobias Rudulph
James Evans.

Acknowledgment of Alexander Read shows "At the same time came Jemima, the wife of the said Alexander Read, and did acknowledge that she freely and fully consents to the bargain and sale within mentioned, and being examined privily, etc."

Recorded April 7, 1794.

(The tracts included in above Deed (1) (2) (3) (4) can be identified with following conveyances marked with these numbers respectively. Taken together, these Deeds establish locations and relationships very definitely. All these tracts are east of the Big Elk, near Christiana Creek and the eastern boundary of New Munster. -- C.R. McK.)

(From Land Records Circuit Court Cecil County, Maryland)

(1) Vol. 15, folio 309, DEED from WILLIAM READ to ALEXANDER READ:
Dated, January 16, 1784.
Grantor (William Read) describes himself "of New Castle County, Delaware". Deed conveys for the sum of £ 111 - to Alexander Read, of Cecil County, State of Maryland, a tract of land in Millford Hundred, Cecil County, being part of tract called New Munster, and also part of 903 acres sold by Robert Roberts to Thomas Stevenson, as appears by Deed dated May 14, 1718, which became vested in Hugh Longwill, beginning at a maple stump on bank of Christiana Creek, which is a corner of JOHN READ'S land, containing 74 acres, more or less.
(See Hugh Longwill to William Read, March 7 - 1768)

(2) HEZEKIAH SOUTH to JOHN READ. Deed dated July 3, 1773.
Vol. 13/188.
"Hezekiah South, of Cecil County, Maryland, and John Read of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Deed of five acres 'on main road leading from Nottingham to Christeen Bridge and on the outside line of New Munster on the east side of said tract.' Improvements described in deed include a school house, which is expressly excepted from conveyance.

(NOTE By C.R. McK. This Deed is also referred to in Deed Alexander Read to John Scott, vol. 18, folio 350.
It will be noted that Hezekiah South is a witness to Will of Amos Alexander. He also appears in Inventory Book 7 folio 167, June 2, 1779, as an executor of the Will of James Alexander in conjunction with Josiah Alexander. He was apparently substituted for Amos Alexander who, with Josiah, was named in James' will. In re Estate of Hezekiah South, Vol. 7, folio 1, John Evans and George Alexander as Executors file an Administration Account, Edward Wier and Archibald Dysart are sureties. It may here be noted that Archibald Dysart is a witness of Will of John Read, thus showing intimate neighborhood connection between families.)

(3) (From Land Records Circuit Court, Cecil County, Maryland)

WILLIAM SAMPLE (or Semple) and ESTHER his wife, to JOHN REED (or Read)
Vol. 6, folio 168. DEED. Dated June 5, 1742. "William Sample and Esther his wife, of the province of Pennsylvania and County of Chester of one part and John Reed, of the Province and County aforesaid of the other part.

Whereas said William Sample stands possessed of and in forty acres of land in the County of Cecil and Province of Maryland , being part of a tract of 903 acres granted to Robert Roberts of Queen Anne's County and the said Roberts, by his deed bearing date the 14th August 1718 did grant unto John Stevenson of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the said John Stevenson by his deed bearing date the 15th August 1718 did grant unto James and Moses Alexander, of Cecil County, ninety-two and three-fourths acres, part of the aforesaid 903 acres for the consideration therein mentioned, and the said James and Moses Alexander, and Mary, wife to the aforesaid Moses, did by their deed bearing date the 8th April 1735 grant unto the said William Sample forty acres of land, part of the aforesaid 92-3/4 acres, etc. *** (This tract binds on the corner of James Alexander's land. The grantee's name is spelled REED and READ interchangeably in the deed.)

(NOTE by C.R. McK. The John Read mentioned above is father of Alexander Read, this fact being established by reference to Deed Alexander Read to John Scott, Vol. 18, folio 350, abstract of which appears herein.)

(4) Vol. 15, folio 318. DEED from Richard Bond, Sheriff, to ALEXANDER READ. Dated February 10, 1784. 109 acres. Land of Mark Alexander's, called "ALEXANDER'S LOTT" in Cecil County, Maryland, west side of Christiana Creek being a boundary. Between John Read's and William Read's land, and standing in the south line on the east side of New Munster, between road from Nottingham to Christiana Bridge and Christiana Creek. Deed recites, "Whereas the said Mark Alexander was indebted to a certain Robert Alexander in the sum of 150 pounds sterling, which the said Robert Alexander, lately in the County Court of Baltimore, before the Justices thereof, recovered against the said Mark Alexander as the sum of 422 pounds of tobacco and costs; whereas writ of fi. fa. issued on the above named judgment, commanding the said Richard Bond, as Sheriff, to levy on the said lands and goods of Mark Alexander, etc., and whereas the said Richard Bond, Esq., in pursuance of the tenor and command of the writ aforesaid, afterwards, to wit, on the 26th January, 1784, did expose to sale the said lands, etc., and the said ALEXANDER READ was the highest bidder for the same; Now this Indenture witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of Fifty Pounds current money (the price bid for said property by the said Alexander Read) and to him in hand paid by the said Alexander Read, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by the said Richard Bond, Esq., the said Richard Bond bargains, sells and conveys unto the said Alexander Read, his heirs and assigns forever, all the above described land and premises, containing 109 acres, more or less, called "ALEXANDER'S LOTT", together with all and singular the houses, outbuildings, improvements, ways, watercourse rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments, etc.

Witnesses: Joseph Gilpin (Signed) Richard Bond
Stephen Hyland

(Note: See memorandum of original Patent to Alexander's Lott, issued to Mark Alexander in 1768. Land Office, Annapolis)

The road (now Route #273) between Newark, Delaware and Rising Sun, Maryland, is that referred to as leading "from Nottingham to Christiana Bridge", on which the "Dysart" tavern stands at Appleton's X-Roads.

The MARK ALEXANDER who owned "Alexander's Lott" is probably the one mentioned as living in Baltimore about 1762 and one of the group who formed the First Presbyterian Church and also connected with the Continental Congress at Baltimore in December 1776. (Scharf's Hist. Balto. City-County, pp. 74 and 544. Also Chronicles of Baltimore)

The ROBERT ALEXANDER is the "loyalist" mentioned elsewhere herein who was member of Provincial Assembly from Baltimore in 1775-6. (See Scharf p. 76) -- C.R.McK.

WILL OF THEOPHILUS ALEXANDER

Recorded in Cecil County, "Wills" BB-2 Folio 302.

In the Name of God Amen. The 20 day of February A.D. 1768, I, Theophilus Alexander, of Cecil County, Maryland, blacksmith, being of sound mind and memory, blessed be God, but calling to mind my mortal state, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, viz.:

I recommend my soul to God, my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors. As touching my worldly estate, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

Imprimis. I give and bequeath unto my wife Catharine the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, my bed and bedding, her mare and saddle.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph Alexander my lands in North Carolina and the sum of twenty pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret Cannon the sum of ten pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Sophia Sharp the sum of seven pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my well beloved daughter Kezia the sum of sixty-five pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son George Alexander, his heirs and assigns, all that plantation whereon I live, as the same hath and still doth stand willed to me by my Father, JAMES ALEXANDER, he the said George paying to the executors of the estate of the said James Alexander the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds Pensilvania(?) money when it shall become due to the said estate by a bond bearing date the - day of this instant, under my hand and seal for that sum.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catrine the sum of sixty-five pounds.

It is further my will that all the remainder of my estate, after my just and lawful debts are paid, be equally divided between my daughters Margaret Cannon, Sophia Sharp, Ann Cannon, Kezia Alexander, Catrine Alexander, and my son George Alexander.

I do hereby constitute and appoint my wife Catharine, my trusty brother Amos Alexander and my son George Alexander my only and sole Executors of this my last will and testament, utterly revoking all former wills, testaments, gifts and legacies, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the date above.

Theophilus Alexander (Seal)

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by said Theophilus Alexander as his last will and testament in the presence of us the subscribers and in the presence of each other

John Alexander
John Sharp
Robert Willson
John Robison.

Probated August 19, 1768

(Note: Theophilus was an elder son of James Alexander and predeceased him. The Will of James Alexander, copied herein, was probated May 31, 1779. Note provision therein to "my grandson, George Alexander".)

(Theophilus' son Joseph Alexander was a minister in charge of Sugaw Creek Congregation, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, at this time. Graduated at Princeton 1760.) C.R. McK.

WILL OF JOHN MacKNITE

Recorded in Cecil County, "Wills" AA-1 Folio 261

In the Name of God Amen: This 14th day of April, 1733, I John MacKnite, of Cecil County in Maryland, planter, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, knowing it is appointed for all men to die, I do make and ordain my last will and testament, that is to say: First of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it me, and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian manner at the discretion of my executors, and as touching my worldly estate, in manner and form as follows:

Item imprimis: I give unto Dorihey, my well beloved wife, the use and profits of my plantation until my son John MacKnite shall come to the age of twenty and one years, but not allowing her to dispose of any of my timber nor to clear any or suffer any to be cleared excepting her widowhood.
Item: I give and bequeath unto Dorihey my wife fifty pounds to be levied out of my estate, besides her third part of all my moveable estate, in consideration of maintaining my son Daniell, whom I think will not be capable of maintaining himself.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son John MacKnite, his heirs and assigns, all my lands and tenements, which said lands and tenements I do prohibit him from selling and disposing of until he shall come to the age of twenty and five years. In case my above named son John MacKnitt should die without heirs of his body begotten before he comes to the age of twenty and five years, then I will the said lands and tenements to my daughter Mary MacKnitt, her heirs and assigns, she paying ten pounds apiece to my other two children, namely Daniell and Hanah, and in case any of the said children should die, the survivor to have the said twenty pounds. I further prohibit my said daughter Mary to sell or otherwise dispose of the said lands and tenement if they should happen to fall to her till she arrive at the age of 30.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Richard Coozine (?) my apprentice a horse, saddle and bridle to the value of eight pounds to be paid out of my estate when he shall arrive at the age of 21 years.

Item. I give and bequeath all the rest of my moveable estate equally to be divided amongst all my children, that is said Mary, Daniell, John and Hanah. In case Dorihey my wife should marry again and my children should be abused, I do appoint and empower my beloved brother in law John Bridard (Brevard) to take my said children and deliver them to my executors, and that my said trustee (?) shall have absolute oversight in that case.

I do hereby appoint, ordain and constitute my true and well beloved wife Dorihey MacKnite and my brother in law JAMES ALEXANDER, and James Wallace to be my executors of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby utterly disavow, revoke and annul all and every former testament, will * * and executors by me in any ways before this time nominated, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

John MacKnite (Seal)

Witnesses: Paul Alexander, Martin Alexander
John Gray and Thomas McDowell

Probated June 13, 1733.

Executors filed Account (Vol. 1,p. 86) and
Inventory of Pers. Property £ 175-15-3.
Payments to Andrew Alexander and Martin Alexander as
Appraisors. Amounts due Paul Alexander, Robert Patton, etc.

ESTATE OF JOHN McKNITT

(The father of John MacKNITE, whose will was probated 1733 and evidently the John McKnitt named in the power of attorney of May 18, 1714 (Book 2, p. 280) from Thomas Stevenson, as well as the father of Margaret McKnitt, wife of James Alexander.)

Administration Accounts, Cecil Co. Book 1, p. 220:

July 10, 1716: Account of John McKnitt and Martha McKnitt, Administrators of Estate of John McKnitt. Shows payments to James Alexander, George Gillespie, minister, etc. Inventory £ 101-12-9

NOTE: A will of John McKnitt (spelled also McNeet) probated March 30, 1748 (BB-2/33) names a son John (not then of legal age), Elizabeth his wife and Manasa Long named executors. The identity of this testator is not clear, but he is probably the John McKnit who executed a quit claim deed June 14, 1745 (Book 6/480) to Andrew Alexander of "land being west end of a tract called 'Glasgow' formerly taken up by John McKnit, late of said County, grandfather to the aforesaid John, located on Long Creek, a branch of Bohemia River, binding on a tract called 'Highspaniola' originally taken up by Nicholas Painter, etc."

Also see quit claim of Wm. Richardson of A.A. Co. to John McKnitt of 150 acres of "Hispaniola", "leaving out Saml. Alexander's present improvements and including to John McKnitt his present improvements," June 22, 1723 (Book 4/19).

This will in effect suggests four successive generations of John McKnitts from the first taker up of said lands in Cecil County. The name disappears from Cecil County records after 1749 when an account was stated by Elizabeth McKnitt, Executrix (Accounts Book 2 p.249).

WILL OF THOMAS SHARP (SR.)

(Recorded in Cecil County, Md., "Wills" EE-2/84)

In the name of God, Amen: The 9 day of January in the year of our Lord 1747/8, I Thomas Sharp, of Cecil County in the State of Maryland, yeoman, being very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God therefor, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say:

Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christianlike and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at ye general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Isabel, one-third of all my movable estate at her own disposal forever.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, Walter Sharp, ye sum of 20 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, Thomas Sharp, ye sum of 60 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, James Sharp, ye sum of 40 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son-in-law John Smith, ye sum of 20 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter, Hanah, ye sum of 30 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son-in-law, David Wharry, ye sum of 20 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved daughter, Sarah, ye sum of 30 pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, Joseph Sharp, ye sum of 40 pounds when he arrives at the age of 21 years, to be paid by the Executors or any of them.

Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, Samuel Sharp, ye sum of 40 pounds when he arrives to 21 years, to be paid by the Executors.

Further, I do order that all my estate, real and personal shall be appraised. Item: I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife, Isabel, the third part of my real estate during her natural life and within 12 months after her decease to be equally divided amongst the legatees according to the aforesaid appraisement and the two parts estate at appraisement two years after my

decease shall be paid to the legatees according to said appraisement more or less as it shall amount, adding to or deducting from equally the bequeathments aforementioned.

I do hereby constitute, make and ordain my well beloved wife Isabel and my son Thomas Sharp my only and sole Executors of my last will and testament, whom I do likewise authorize and empower to sell and convey forever all my real estate, and their conveyance shall be as good as mine in every respect, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, requests, etc. by me anyways before this named willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Thomas Sharp (Seal)

Witnesses:

Walter Ker, George Lawson, Alex. Logan

(Probated December 7, 1749)

ESTATE OF THOMAS SHARP, SR.

Receipts as follows for bequests under Will recorded in Land Records, Cecil County, Book 9/76-77:

August 17, 1751 James Sharp to Thomas Sharp, Executor, £ 42/10 "bequeathed to me by my father".

September 2, 1751, Richard Stephenson, to same, £ 32/10 "for the legacy ordered to Hannah Sharp, received by me, her husband."

December 15, 1751, AMOS ALEXANDER, to same, £ 32/10 (bequeathed to his wife, Sarah Sharp).

December 23, 1751, David Wharry to same, £ 32.

March 28, 1754, John Smith to same, £ 22/10.

March 27, 1754, Joseph Sharp to same, £ 42/10.

May 2, 1757, Samuel Sharp to same, £ 42/10.

SHARPE, THOMAS (JR.)

Will probated Cecil County, Maryland, November 22, 1785. (EE 5/75) (Name is spelled interchangeably Sharpe and Sharp, but signed "Sharp").

Wife, Mary.
Names the following sons as "living in North Carolina":
William
John
James
Joseph
Samuel

Son, Walter, deceased.
The following sons "now at home with me":
Thomas
Amos
David
Ebenezer.

Daughter, Isabel Wallace "living in North Carolina"
" Sarah
" Mary Plymster (illegible)
" Elizabeth "now at home"

Bequeaths plantation he now lives on, about 500 acres, known as "Sharp's Industry" to son Thomas. Also mentions land in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

Wife, Mary, and son, Thomas, appointed Executors.

Witnesses: Abram Mitchell, Francis Caruthers,
Walter Caruthers, Hugh Block.

(Note, C.R.McK. Thomas Sharp Jr. is buried in Sharp's Graveyard, near Fair Hill, Cecil County, Maryland. The gravestone is plainly marked

"In memory of Thomas Sharpe
who departed this life
November 11, 1785
Aged 67 years.")

WILL OF KEZIA ALEXANDER SHARP

Recorded in Office of Register, York Co., Pa. Book A/28

In the name of God Amen. The 21 day of September A.D. 1750, I, Kezia Sharp, of Ye County of York in Ye Province of Pennsylvania, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God therefor, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say:

Principally and first of all I give my soul into the hands of God who gave it and as for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christianlike and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall revive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my well beloved and only daughter Kezia Sharp, all my estate except my wearing apparel, which I give and bequeath unto my well beloved sister Jemima Sharp, but in case my daughter Kezia Sharp dies before she comes of the age of 18 years, my will and pleasure is that my estate be sold publicly and of the value thereof I give and bequeath unto my well beloved brother's son Joseph Alexander the sum of ten pounds and unto my brother's daughter Kezia Alexander the sum of fifteen pounds and unto my brother AMOS ALEXANDER the sum of twenty pounds and unto my sister in law Hanah Sharp the sum of five pounds and the one-half of the remainder of my estate unto my sister Jemima Sharp and the other half of my estate to be equally divided between my brothers Hezekiah Alexander and John McKnitt Alexander.

It is my further will and pleasure that my honored father James Alexander and my mother in law Isabel Sharp have the care and tuition of my daughter Kezia Sharp until she arrives at the age of 18 years and I do likewise hereby constitute, ordain and appoint my brother Theo(philus) Alexander and my brother-in-law Thomas Sharp my only and sole Executors of this my last will and testament, utterly revoking and disannulling all former wills, testaments, gifts and legacies whatsoever, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Kezia Sharp (Seal)

Witnesses: James Agnew, John (x) White, Ester (x) Garrison

Probated 20 Feb. 1750-1. Letters granted to Theophilus Alexander and Thomas Sharp same date.

(Note: Walter Sharp, the husband of above Kezia Alexander Sharp, who evidently predeceased her, was the eldest son of Thomas Sharp Sr. (Will 1749). Walter Sharp qualified as a commissioner of York County, Pa. October 31, 1749, following the first election held after organization of the County.)

ESTATE OF WALTER SHARP

(Office of Register, York Co., Pa., A/40)

Memorandum in above Orphans Court docket that letters of administration in common form were granted to Thomas Sharp and Theophilus Alexander on the Estate of Walter Sharp, of York County, deceased, 1 February 1750/1. Inventory to be exhibited on or before 1 day of March and account to be stated before 1 day of February A.D. 1750/2.

George Stevenson, Dept. Register

(Note: The exact date of death of Walter Sharp not indicated, nor record of inventory or account found.) I find the following in the first entries on the Orphans Court docket A, folios 1 and 2, November 1-2, 1749:

> "By consent and approbation of James Agnew and Jeremiah Loughry, Admrs. of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights and credits of Hugh McSweney, Margaret, a minor orphan of said Hugh, aged 4 years about 1 March last, is by this Court bound an apprentice unto WALTER SHARP, of this County until she shall be of the age of 18 years. In consideration whereof the said Walter Sharp covenants and obliges himself to teach or cause to be taught the said apprentice to read, knit, sew and spin and to furnish and allow her sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing and lodging during her said term and at the expiration thereof to give her two suits of apparel, one whereof shall be new."

Other entries show the minor orphan George McSweney, age 2 years, bound as apprentice with consent of George McSweney his uncle to John Withers (or Withro) of Hamilton's Ban Twp. and John McSweney, another minor orphan age 7, apprenticed to James Agnew, of Hamilton's Ban Twp. The conditions are that the said apprentice shall be allowed sufficient meat, drink, apparel, etc. and "taught to read and write, arithmetic as far as the rule of three and at the expiration - age 21, be given two suits of apparel, one whereof shall be new."

The early proceedings of the Oprhans Court seem to have been largely devoted to disposition of minor orphans, some to be trained as carpenters, wheelwrights, or the "art or mystery of weaving", etc.

In Docket A/31 at an Orphans Court held at the house of Hans Hamilton, Esq., in Cumberland Twp. 7 May, 1753 (the first Court house in Yorktown was not erected until 1756) before Patrick Watson, Hans Hamilton and John Withro, Esqs., Justices, there is the following reference to Walter Sharp:

> "Came into Court John McFarren, who by the last will and testament of James Robinson, together with Walter Sharp who is since deceased, was appointed guardian of his children, and renouncing his guardianship over the person and estates of Marjoram, John, Elizabeth, James, David and Mary Robinson, minor orphans of aforesaid James Robinson, etc."

NOTE: The above data indicates that Walter and Kezia Sharp were among the early Scotch Irish settlers of Hamilton's Ban Twp., York (now Adams) County with James Agnew and others named in Rupp's History. C.R.McK.

Note on Lineage of PETER THOMPSON, of Huntingdon County, Penna.

(From Jordan's History of Juniata Valley, Vol. 3, p. 1124)

"Tempted by the promise that in the crown colony of Maryland, he could worship God according to the manner that had been taught him by his parents, JOHN THOMPSON, a Catholic subject of England, left his home in Kirkfenton, Yorkshire, and sailed for America about 1680. He settled near Baltimore, where he remained until his death. He was a farmer, and in the new country pursued the occupation that had engrossed his forefathers for generations. Among his children was John:-

"II. JOHN THOMPSON, son of John Thompson the immigrant, was born in Maryland, there grew to manhood and followed farming. He became a large landed proprietor and had slaves, like all planters in the colony. Among his children was Peter:-

"III. PETER THOMPSON, son of John Thompson was born in Maryland and became a prominent planter and politician. He was one who spoke in favor of the colonies breaking with the mother country, and was among the first to enlist in the Continental army, despite the fact that one of his brothers advocated remaining under the dominion of England. At the successful termination of the revolutionary war, he returned to Maryland to resume his occupation of planter. He had a large family, among whom was Peter:-

"IV. PETER THOMPSON, son of Peter Thompson of Maryland, was born on his father's plantation, and there grew up a country gentleman. Owing to religious feeling, he left his native state, moved to Pennsylvania and settled at Raystown Branch of the Juniata River (then Bedford County) where he continued to live until his death, a gentleman farmer. He was considered an advanced man at that time, and successfully managed his land, it is thought with the help of negro slaves. Among his children was John:-

"V. John Thompson, son of Peter Thompson, was probably born at Raystown Branch, Huntingdon County, Pa., in the Juniata Valley, where he grew to maturity, married and became a successfuly farmer. He was a strong Democrat and, like his wife, was a life-long Roman Catholic. He married Eleanor Burke, etc."

(The last named Peter Thompson was presumably the father of Ignatius Thompson, our ancestor, although I have no confirmatory record other than the Will of Peter Thompson, probated March 13, 1811 (Hunt.Co.Book 2/69), a deed Peter Thompson and Mary his wife, of Hopewell Twp., Huntingdon Co., April 14, 1800, to Moses Greenland (Book G-1/549) covering land on Little Trough Creek, Union Township; and the record of land warrants in Penna. Archives. All known facts support the relationship."

WILL OF PETER THOMPSON

(Recorded Huntingdon County, Pa., Book 2/69)

In the name of God, Amen: I, Peter Thompson, of the County of Huntingdon, State of Pennsylvania, farmer, being, etc., do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say:

Principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in Christian-like burial at the discretion of my executors and doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the Almighty Power of God, and as touching my worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and demise in the following manner:

1. I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife all my whole estate, lands, tenements and household furniture during her widowhood, and if she should marry, to be equally divided with her and John Thompson, Andrew Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson, Prusilla Thompson and Ann Thompson. After her death, to fall to the above mentioned children. To the rest of my children a French crown apiece, ratifying and confirming this to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23" February, 1811.

Peter Thompson (Seal)

Signed, sealed, etc.,
in presence of
William Norris
John Norris, Jr.

(Probated March 13, 1811. Same day letters issued to John Thompson, Jr. on Estate of Peter Thompson "late of Hopewell Twp., Huntingdon Co., Pa.)

PETER THOMPSON, Record of Land Grants.

Deed "Peter Thompson and Mary his wife of Hopewell Twp., Huntingdon County" to Moses Greenland, of Union Twp. said County. April 14, 1800. (Book G-1/549). 316 acres 158 perches "being tract surveyed to said Peter Thompson upon warrant dated 22 Dec. 1794 and patented to said P. T. 2 July 1795, enrolled in Patent Book No. 25, p. 380. Said land lying on Little Trough Creek in Union Twp.

See also Archives of Penna. 3" Series Vol. 25, pp. 644, 772, "Warranties of Land":

Peter Thompson	276	acres	Bedford County,	Aug. 26, 1784
" "	225½	"	" "	" " "
" "	400	"	Huntingdon "	March 22, 1794

WILL OF IGNATIUS THOMPSON

In the name of God, Amen. I, Ignatius Thompson, of Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, do make this my last will and testament as follows: the residue of my farm and land situate on surveys in the name of Andrew Boggs and Robert Boggs, being about one hundred and fifty acres with the dwelling house thereon, I give, devise and bequeath to my wife Mary during her natural life, and after her decease I give, devise and bequeath to my son Josiah W. Thompson the above farm of one hundred and fifty acres to him, his heirs and assigns forever, subject to the payment of the sum of five hundred dollars to my daughter Esther, payable to her in four equal annual payments the first payment commencing at the day that this devise becomes vested in the said Josiah W. Thompson; provided further that during the life of my wife, in case she survives me, my daughter Esther as long as she remains single is to have her living and support with my wife Mary out of my aforesaid farm, it being my intention that in case my wife and daughter Esther survive me that my said daughter is as long as she remains unmarried to live with her mother and have her living and support out of the said farm until such time as the devise to my son Josiah becomes vested by the decease of my wife. As to the rest of my children they have been provided for already in my lifetime. I mean also that all the household and kitchen furniture to belong to my wife and my daughter Esther and also 2 horses and all the farming utensils to Josiah W. Thompson. My wife is to have full privilege of keeping two or three cows if she chooses and one horse and also the carriage and sleigh with the harness and also the interest of five hundred dollars to my wife during her lifetime and if my daughter Esther survives her mother she is to have the principal of the five hundred dollars and the residue of the outstanding debts that should be coming at my decease to be collected and equally divided amongst my heirs. I also give and bequeath to my heirs all my right, title, interest and claim of the lower end of Robert Boggs adjoining little Clearfield Creek, and lastly I nominate, constitute and appoint my wife, Mary, John D. Thompson and Josiah W. Thompson the Executors of this my last Will and Testament. As witness my hand and seal this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

Ignatius Thompson (SEAL)

Witness
H. P. Thompson
A. C. Tate

(Filed 8th May 1861, Clearfield County, Pa.)

(Certain obvious errors in spelling corrected in above transcript. The daughter "Esther" who lived at home with her father to the last was known also as "Hettie." She married Robert D. Cummings later. C.R.McK.)

WILL OF MARY (NORRIS) THOMPSON

I, Mary Thompson widow of Ignatius Thompson, late of Lawrence Township, Clearfield County, decd. do make and publish this as and for my testament and last will, hereby revoking all wills heretofore made - that is to say -

First. I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Read my Bureau

Second. I give and bequeath unto the children of Joseph Straw and my daughter, Nancy Ann Straw, all that certain note payable to me by Joseph Straw for borrowed money, which said note is now in the hands of my son James Thompson.

Third. I give and bequeath to my son John D. Thompson the proceeds of a certain County bond, dated about 10th July 1865 which was paid for with my money, and all of said money and its interest in the hands of my said son John D. Thompson to be his absolutely.

Fourth. I give and bequeath to my son Josiah W. Thompson his note payable to me for ninety dollars with its interest the same to be the property of said Josiah W. Thompson absolutely now in custody of James Thompson.

Fifth. I give and bequeath unto my son Josiah W. Thompson all those articles of personal property belonging to me which are retained by Robert D. Cummings formerly of Bellefonte, Pa., consisting in part of one Black mare, two cows, three feather beds & bedding, one corner cupboard, one dining table, one breakfast table, one sett chairs, two setts of queensware, one Buffalo Robe, two barrells of vinegar, two meat vessels and wearing apparel to be recovered and retained by said Josiah W. Thompson for his own use.

Sixth. I order and direct my executor to collect the residue of my estate and after paying my just debts and funeral expenses to divide and pay over the same unto my daughter Mary Read and my sons John D. Thompson, James Thompson and Josiah W. Thompson, equally share and share alike, first charging Mary Read with $92½ dollars in gold with interest.

Lastly, I constitute and appoint my sons Josiah W. Thompson and John D. Thompson the Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

Witness my hand and seal August 4th, 1870.

Her
Mary X Thompson (Seal)
Mark

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named Mary Thompson as and for her last Will and Testament in the presence of us who hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto in her presence this 4th day of August A. D. 1870.

Wm. A. Wallace
Jno. W. Wrigley

Probated in due form October 28th, 1872
before A. C. Tate, Depy. Register.

(Note: The witness, Wm. A. Wallace, was United States Senator; John W. Wrigley, a prominent citizen and county official of Clearfield. Robert D. Cummings of Bellefonte was surviving spouse of testator's youngest daughter Esther, or Hester (Aunt Hettie) Thompson. The daughter named, Mary Read, was my gr.mother, wife of gr.father Ross Read. C.R.McK.)

WILL OF JOHN POTTER JORDAN (From Records Centre County, Pa., at Bellefonte, August 15, 1938, Book A/46)

In the name of God Amen. I, John Potter Jordan, of the Township of Chincklecamoose in the County of Clearfield, State of Pennsylvania, being sick and weak in body, etc. * * *

Item: I give, devise and bequeathe unto my father and mother all the rents, issues and profits of my farm whereon the Widow Dale now dwells in the Township of Chincklecamoose aforesaid containing 400 acres during their natural lives, and at their decease I give, devise and bequeathe the same farm, with all appurtenances unto my sisters, Mary and Margaret, to be equally divided between them with respect to quantity and quality by my Executors hereinafter named, etc. * * *

Item: It is my will and I do hereby order and direct that my Executors hereinafter named shall sell in the best manner they can my tract of land which was devised to me by my Unkle GENERAL JAMES POTTER, situate on Cowenshannock, in the County of Armstrong, State of Pennsylvania, containing 250 acres, more or less, etc. * * *

Item; I give, devise and bequeathe 25 pounds, part of the price of said land unto my brother THOMAS JORDAN.

Item; I give and bequeathe unto my sister, MARTHA REED 75 pounds, part of the price of said land, and the residue of the same I order and direct to be put to interest, which interest I give and bequeathe to my father and mother during their natural lives, etc.; after their decease, the principal sum to my sisters, Mary and Margaret, to be divided between them, share and share alike.

Item: All my wearing apparel, one yoke of oxen and the grain now growing in the ground, etc., to my father; to my mother, three cows and calves. My horse and surveyor's compass and rifle gun and all other property to be sold by my Executors, and the proceeds of sale to be equally divided between my father, mother and sisters Mary and Margaret.

Lastly, I nominate my trusty and loving friends ALEXANDER REED and Hugh Hall to be the Executors of this my last will and testament, etc.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 30th day of July in the Year of our Lord 1807.

John Potter Jordan. (Seal)

In the presence of:
*George Welsh, *John Fullerton, Wm. Kersey.

(Will proven Sept. 12, 1807, Letters Testamentary with Will annexed issued same day to ALEXANDER READ and *Hugh Hall, Executors.)

*Named as early settlers in said township (now Lawrence) in History of Clearfield County.

(Note: The above John Potter Jordan was a son of Benjamin Jordan, evidently unmarried, and brother of Martha Jordan, who married Alexander Read, Jr., my gr. grandfather. The erroneous spelling of READ will be noted in the will but the record shows granting of letters testamentary to Alexander Read.)

EVANS - ALEXANDER

Two marriages occurred between the ROBERT EVANS and AMOS ALEXANDER families of Cecil County, Maryland.

ROBERT EVANS was the youngest of three brothers (the others John and James) who settled in Cecil County. About 1730 he purchased three hundred acres on the Big Elk, west of Cowantown, later the site of the Parke-Smith rolling mill, and of the old iron bridge which still stands. He was a successful tanner and bought lands at the Head of Elk (Elkton), in New Munster and elsewhere.

He married Margaret, daughter of John Kilpatrick of West Nottingham. James, the brother married another daughter, Isabella. The children of Robert and Margaret, two sons and six daughters, were:

Jean, who m. Henry Hollingsworth, of Elkton;
Hannah, who m. Rev. James Finley, pastor of "The Rock" Church and pioneer minister of western Pennsylvania;
Mary, who m. Zebulon Hollingsworth, of Elk Landing;
Isabella, who m. William Montgomery;
Margaret, who m. James Black (grandfather of Mrs. John C. Groome);
ELEANOR, who m. Capt. Walter Alexander, son of Amos Alexander of New Munster;
JOHN, who m. Mary Alexander, daughter of Amos Alexander;
Robert was commissioned a lieutenant in the Revolutionary army but met with accidental death before entering service.

John and Mary Alexander Evans were parents of an illustrious son, Amos Alexander Evans; Sarah, who m. Robert Gallaher; Robert, who married and with his family removed to Iowa; John; Jane, who never married and died early in life; Levi Hollingsworth, who was State Senator and Judge of the Orphans Court; George, who went to Mexico and died at Matamoras; and William and Mark, both of whom died young. John Evans died March 3, 1823, aged 63 years. Mary his wife died September 1, 1820, aged 59. Buried H. of C. Cemetery.

Amos Alexander Evans, born Nov. 26, 1785, attended Newark Academy; later studied medicine under Dr. Benjamin Rush and at the University of Penna. and became a surgeon in the United States Navy. During the war of 1812 he was assigned to the frigate "Constitution". He was present during the famous engagement with the "Guerriere" and for the high character of services rendered he received commendations from the Secretary of the Navy and two medals from the Congress of the United States. He afterwards practiced medicine at Elkton, Md. until his death January 15, 1848.

(The above derived chiefly from Hist. of Cecil Co., Johnston, which however erroneously states that Eleanor "married Amos Alexander". Reference is made to Est. of Walter Alexander, Eleanor Alexander, surv. Executrix, (Accts. Vol. 4/177, June 1781); Will of Robert Evans naming Eleanor and Will of Amos Alexander naming Robert, son of Walter and Eleanor Alexander. C.R.McK.)

JOHN POTTER (c. 1700-1757)

JOHN HAMILTON (1702-1755)

THOMAS POE (c. 1700-1770)

ARCHIBALD BARD (c. 1700-1765)

A special interest attaches to the above group, through relationships by marriage and otherwise. All were of Scottish-Irish derivation; they were of the same generation and the names are commingled in family and community history.

From authenticated records it appears that the families of John Potter and John Hamilton both originated on the banks of the Foyle in County Tyrone, Ulster. They sailed for America on the same ship "Donegal", arriving at New Castle, Del., Sep. 26, 1741. John Hamilton's wife (who died on shipboard) was Isabella Potter, sister of John Potter.

Thomas Poe was married to Mary Potter, another sister of John Potter and evidently migrated to America about the same time.

The families of John Potter and John Hamilton visited upon arrival, and remained for sometime at, the home of Archibald Beard in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Del. Archibald Beard had likewise migrated from Ireland sometime prior to 1740 and acquired a considerable tract of land in Delaware. He was undoubtedly related in some manner to the Potters and Hamiltons, but the name of Bard's wife is uncertain. However, Archibald's son Richard Bard (1726-1799) married Catherine Poe (in 1756) daughter of Thomas Poe. Another daughter of Thomas Poe, Susannah, married John Potter's son, Samuel Potter; a daughter of John Potter, Mary, married ________ Beard (Bard) and a granddaughter Elizabeth (daughter of Gen. James Potter) married James Poe (son of Thomas Poe). A further, but more remote connection may be found in intermarriages between the John Hamilton and Hugh Alexander (of Nottingham) families, including some of the Pattersons, Chambers and Potter families.

These are not all the marital and other ties between these families, but enough to excite an interest in their later movements and in certain historical incidents of their later lives on the frontiers of Pennsylvania. All four families mentioned are more closely identified with Pennsylvania history than Maryland or Delaware, and it is clear that all had joined the same general westerly movement by 1750. They and their numerous descendants played important parts in the exciting period which followed.

Two incidents, one occurring in York (now Adams) County in 1758, and the other in Cumberland (now Franklin) County near Greencastle in 1764, as narrated by Richard Bard, deserve perpetuation in a family history.

As to the first, quoting from Rupp's History (Adams County) p. 543:

"During the French and Indian War, the Indians made occasionally hostile incursions into Adams (then York) though greatly protected by the frontier settlements and the barrier of the South Mountain, which shielded them to some extent against the savages; nevertheless, the more adventurous of the savages penetrated into the very heart of the settlements, perpetrated murders and abducted some, as will appear from the subjoined deposition:

"York County, ss:

"The affirmation of Richard Baird, of Hamilton's Ban Twp., aged 22 years, who saith that his habitation, being at the foot of the South Mountain, on the southeast side thereof on the 13th of April last, at 7 o'clock in the morning, he, this deponent, was in the house with Katharine his wife, John, his child about 7 months old, Thomas Potter, son of the late Capt. John Potter, Esq., Frederick Ferrick, his servant, 14 years of age, Hannah McBride aged 11 years, William White 9 years old; in his field were Samuel Hunter and Daniel McMenomy, laborers, when a party consisting of 19 Indians came and captured Samuel Hunter and Daniel McMenomy, laborers, in the field, and afterwards came to the dwelling house of this deponent, and 6 of them suddenly rushed into the house and were immediately driven out by this deponent and Thomas Potter; the door of the house was thrown down by our pressing to keep the Indians out and their pressing to come in. They shot in the house at us and shot away Thomas Potter's little finger. We then had time to know their numbers, and in a little time surrendered, on the promise of the Indians not to kill any of us; and took us about 60 rods up the Mountain, where their match coats lay; for they were naked except the britch clouts, leggings, moccasins and caps. There they brought the two men that had been at work in the field, and in about half an hour ordered us to march, setting me foremost of the prisoners. We marched one after another at some distance. At about 7 miles they killed my child, which I discovered by seeing its scalp. About 12 o'clock I saw another scalp, which I knew to be Thomas Potter's. I have since been informed they killed him at the place where their match coats lay. Friday the 14th, about 12 o'clock they murdered Samuel Hunter, on the North Mountain. They drove us over the Allegheny Mountains in a day and a half, and on Monday night about 10 o'clock I escaped -- they having sent me several times about 3 rods from the fire to bring them water. In 9 nights and days I got to Fort Lyttleton, having had no food other than 4 snakes which I had killed and eat, and some buds and roots and the like. 3 Cherokee Indians found me about 2 miles from Fort Lyttleton, cut me a staff and piloted me to the Fort.

"In conversation with the Indians during my captivity they informed me that they were all Delawares; for they mostly all speak English. One spoke as good English as I can. The Captain said he had been at Philadelphia about a year ago. I asked them if they were not going to make peace with the English? The Captain answered and said, they were talking about it when he was in Philadelphia last winter; but he went away and left them.

RICHARD BAIRD

"Affirmed and subscribed
the 12th of May, 1758
Coramme Geo. Stevenson."

The atrocious murder of school children near Greencastle, Pa. in July 1764 is described in "Loudon's Narratives" and "Incidents of Border Life" (rarities of "Americana") and alluded to in practically all histories of the period and locale.

The following is quoted also from Rupp's History of 1846 (Introduction, pp. 148-150):

> "In 1764, the Indians once more surprised the inhabitants of Cumberland (Franklin) County. The following extracts, the first from John McCullough's narrative, the second from Richard Bard's, give the history of murders committed by the Indians within the limits of Franklin County:
>
> ***
>
> "In (July) 1764, according to the best accounts of the time, my (Bard's) father and family, from fear of the Indians, having moved to my grandfather's, Thomas Poe's, about three miles from his own place, he took a black girl with him, to his own place, to make some hay; and being there at his work, a dog which he had with him, began to bark and run towards, and from a thicket of bushes. Observing these circumstances, he became alarmed, and taking up his gun, told the girl to run to the house, for he believed there were Indians near. So they made towards the house and had not been there more than one hour, when from the left of the house they saw a party, commanded by Captain Potter, later Gen. (James) Potter in pursuit of a party of Indians who had that morning (July 26, 1764) murdered a schoolmaster of the name of Brown, with ten small children, and scalped and left for dead, one by the name of Archibald McCullough, who recovered and was living not long since. It was remarkable that with few exceptions, the scholars were much averse to going to school that morning. And the account given by McCullough is that when the master and scholars met at the school, two of the scholars informed him that on their way they had seen Indians, but the information was not attended to by the Master, who ordered them to their books; soon afterwards two old Indians and a boy rushed up to the door. The master seeing them, prayed them only to take his life and spare the children; but unfeelingly, the two old Indians stood at the door whilst the boy entered the house, and with a piece of wood, made in the form of an Indian maul, killed the Master and scholars, after which the whole of them were scalped."

This schoolhouse stood on a farm about 3 miles from Greencastle. The site is now memorialized by "Enoch Brown Park" with monuments to schoolmaster and pupils, erected in 1885.

The variations in spelling of Bard, Beard and Baird may be generally disregarded, as they appear intermittently throughout records relating to the same family.

The name of Thomas Poe is listed with that of John Potter as a "taxable" in Antrim Township, Cumberland County 1751-2. The names Baird, Hamilton, Alexander, Sharp and Jordan also appear in various parts of the County at the same period with many other familiar but unidentifiable names.

Thomas Poe's Will, dated September 3, 1770 (Cumb. Co. A/136) names his wife, Mary; son James; daughters Katherine Beard, Susannah Potter and Mary Long. He appoints his "trusty friends" Alan Killough and William Duffield executors. Both of these were well known citizens of Cumberland County. Alan Killough was an elder of Middle Spring Church, near Shippensburg, "who lived on the Ridge Road." There are references to Duffield in local history of the period. Letters testamentary were issued to Allen Killough and William Foster October 23, 1770.

The son James Poe, who married Gen. James Potter's daughter Elizabeth, was a prominent lawyer of Franklin County, a first County Commissioner (with John BEARD) in 1785, member of State legislature and a representative in Congress for many years. He died 1822.

Richard Bard was an associate judge, Peters Twp. (Franklin Co.) in 1786. Richard Beard appears in a Franklin Co. Grand Jury 1785.

One Archibald Bard was an associate judge 1811-1824. A Thomas Bard was Captain of a Mercerburg Company in Sept. 1814, in which an Archibald Bard was private.

The multiplicity and remoteness of these collaterals will not justify further pursuit, but their origin and early associations seem worthy of note.

Detailed references to these Hamiltons, with their contemporaries, Alexander, Potter, Patterson and Chambers, et al, may be found in the "History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys," "History of Centre and Clinton Counties" and other local histories, as well as "Chronicles of the Bards" herein cited.

The full story of the Bard captivity, partially related by Richard Bard (Baird), page 119, attests the fortitude and stamina of that pioneer stock. Bard himself escaped the fifth day. His wife, Catharine Poe Bard, remained in captivity two years and five months. Bard versified his adventures in the form of a curious "ballad." His son, Judge Archibald Bard, wrote the "Narrative." Details of the tragic episode appear in the "Chronicles."

Following the murder of Thomas Potter and the Bards' infant son the day of the raid, the Indians with their captives trudged hastily over the South Mountain, through the Mont Alto gap into the Cumberland Valley. Avoiding fortified and populated centers they passed over Tuscarora Mountain (where Samuel Hunter was tomahawked), by Sideling Hill into the valley of the Raystown branch of the Juniata. Apparently they approached the Alleghenies by way of Blair's Gap (west of Hollidaysburg) toward the Summit; thence into the Conemaugh Valley. The fifth day they reached Stony Creek, a distance of over 150 miles. That night Bard, being permitted to visit a spring for water, made his escape. According to the "Chronicles," the spring is still pointed out "on the farm of John McGee about a mile west of Homer City in Indiana County." Search for Bard having failed, the Indians and remaining captives proceeded toward the Allegheny River, Fort Duquesne and the Ohio country.

Bard engaged in futile searches for his wife. Finally, through friendly Indians she was located on the Susquehanna near Fort Augusta (Sunbury) and he secured her release upon payment of a ransom of 40 pounds. Her untold physical hardships and mental agonies passed into memory. They settled on the plantation in Franklin County, mentioned on page 60 as once belonging to Hezekiah Alexander, prospered and reared ten children, eight of whom married and left numerous issue.

NOTES ON HAMILTON FAMILY

(From "Pennsylvania, Genealogies", W. H. Egle, p. 266. Peabody Library) (Interest in this line of Hamiltons arises from early intermarriage with POTTER; later with ALEXANDERS of Nottingham, Md. and numerous community relationships. C.R.McK.)

I. JAMES HAMILTON and Katharine his wife emigrated from Lanarkshire, Scotland, to the freelands of Ulster in Ireland, where he became a considerable landholder. An only child was born to them on the banks of the Foyle, in County Tyrone.

II. JOHN HAMILTON, son of James, born January 1702; died June 5, 1755, and is buried at New London Cross Roads, Chester County, Pa. By will he left a farm to his daughter Katharine, and a farm and mill to his son John in, then, Cumberland, now Perry and Juniata Counties, Pa. * * * He resided on a farm in Chester County, Pa., which he purchased in 1742, a short time after his arrival in this country. At the period of his second marriage he was a well established farmer and miller. His will is dated May 31, 1755, and is recorded in Chester County * * * He was a Presbyterian.

He married (1) Jan. 6, 1735 by the Rev. Baptist Boyd, of Aghalow, ISABELLA POTTER, b. 1710, d. Sept. 25, 1741, on shipboard and was buried at New Castle, Delaware, Sept. 26, 1741. She was sister of JOHN POTTER, who emigrated with John Hamilton to America on the ship "Donegal" arriving at New Castle Friday, September 25, 1741. MR. POTTER was the first Sheriff of Cumberland County, Pa. (1750) and the father of MAJ. GEN. JAMES POTTER, of the Revolution. By this marriage they had issue (1) James, b. Nov. 27, 1736, d. s.p. (2) Katharine, b. Dec. 18, 1738, m. James Chambers. (3) John, b. Sept. 30, 1740, d. Oct. 17, 1741, and is buried at ARCHIBALD BEARD'S in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware.

John Hamilton m. (2) in January 1748 by Rev. Francis Alison, of New London, Chester County, Pa., Jane Allen, b. 1715, d. Feb. 4, 1791, and is buried at Harrisburg, Pa. She was the daughter of Capt. Thomas Allen, of H.M.S. "Quaker" on the Chesapeake Bay in 1684 and commander in the Virginia waters. (Note: For references to Captain Allen, see story of George Talbot and murder of Christopher Rousby in Johnston's Hist. Cecil County, Md. C.R.McK.) They had issue, JOHN, b. June 17, 1749, who m. MARGARET ALEXANDER (daughter of Hugh and Martha Edmiston Alexander) b. 1753, d. 1835. Mrs. Hamilton married a second time, John (or Andrew) Mitchell, an Irish gentleman who died many years before her. Of this marriage there was no issue. (Note: See "Hist. of Juniata and Susq. Valleys" p. 1015; also my notes on Hugh Alexander of Nottingham. C.R.McK.)

III. KATHARINE HAMILTON, b. Dec. 18, 1738, in County Tyrone, Ireland, d. Jan. 14, 1820, at Ludlow Station, Ohio. Married James Chambers, at Loudon Forge, Franklin County, Pa., only son of Benjamin Chambers, of Falling Spring, and Sarah Patterson Chambers, daughter of James Patterson of Donegal, Lancaster County, Pa. James Chambers was a distinguished officer in the Revolutionary War, etc. He died April 25, 1805. They had issue (four) etc. (Numerous notes on Chambers in histories of Cumberland and Franklin Counties, Pa. According to Bard Chronicles (p. 307) Katharine was living at the John Potter homestead at the time of her marriage.

IV. JOHN HAMILTON, b. June 17, 1749, at New London, Chester Co., Pa., d. Aug. 28, 1793, at Harrisburg, Pa. Under will of his father he inherited a plantation and mill bought of James Long on Sherman's Creek, in Cumberland County. He married (1772) Margaret, the daughter of his neighbor Hugh Alexander and Martha Edmiston Alexander. They had issue (six) etc. Martha was buried at Mifflintown, Pa. (1835). Most of her descendants resided in Harrisburg or Juniata Valley, Pa.

(Note: Johnston's His. Cecil County, p. 294, states: "The Edmiston (Edmisson) family owned a tract of land, containing 980 acres at the mouth of Stony Run ** and Octoraro Creek." Rev. J. E. Alexander's history gives the name David Edmiston as father of Martha, b. 1700, d. 1771, and her mother's maiden name as Margaret Donnel. Fuller reference to the Hugh Alexander (Not'ham) line in my notes. Adam Boyd Hamilton, Esq., of Harrisburg, Pa. (1808 -) was a collator of notes on Hamilton and Potter families. C.R.McK.)

HANS HAMILTON

(Note: I regret that only fragmentary notes relating to this eminent frontiersman are available. He was leader among the early Scotch-Irish settlers on Marsh Creek (now Adams County, Pa.). He became first Sheriff of York County upon organization in 1749, a Justice of the Peace and a military leader. The first county courts were held in his house. He was a close contemporary of John Potter, who became first Sheriff of Cumberland County the following year, 1750. They were leagued together in fort construction and Indian expeditions 1755-6. Their names are linked in reports to the Assembly. Walter Sharp, another scion of our family was a neighbor on Marsh Creek and a first commissioner of York County. The name relates back to distinguished lines of Hamiltons. There was a Rev. Hans Hamilton of Ayrshire, b. 1536, and others of the name in Ireland. Hans Hamilton's son, Hans, graduated at the Philadelphia Academy (University of Pa.) with (Rev.) Thomas Read in 1766. C.R.McK.)

(From Hist. York County, Pa. Carter & Glossbrenner, New Ed. 1930, p. 99):

"As HANS HAMILTON was much honored in the early part of our country's history, we deem it propert to note the following of him: He became, several years after he had served two terms as Sheriff, one of the judges of the court of common pleas, and died early in the year 1772 in Menallin Township. His character as a man of integrity and general worth stood very high. At his decease he left the following children: Thomas (who had been Sheriff) Sarah (then married to Alexander McKean) Mary (then married to Hugh McKean) Hans, Guiain, George, John, William and James."

(From "Hist. Univ. of Penna., T.H.Montgomery, Phila. 1900)

"Thomas Read entered Philadelphia Academy 1764; graduated 1766.

"Hans Hamilton entered 1764, graduated 1766. The class of twelve included Robert Andrews, Phineas Bond, Samuel Boyd, Thomas Coombe, HANS HAMILTON, Thomas Hopkinson, John King, Richard Lee, John Montgomery, THOMAS READ, David Sample, James Tilghman.

"Thomas Read accepted a tutorship in the college at this time, Latin."

(Other references to Hans Hamilton in "Frontier Forts", "Rupp's History" "Day's Historical Collections", Penna. Archives, etc.)

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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HANS HAMILTON AND EARLY SETTLERS ON MARSH CREEK

Interesting references are made to Hans Hamilton and Early Settlers in Rupp's History (published 1846) and Egle's History (1876) under Adams County.

From the first, we quote (pp.540-1):

"The first settlers of this (Adams) County were principally Scotch-Irish, who settled in the southwest part of the County, on and along Marsh Creek (Hamilton's Ban Township) about 1738-40.

*** "At that time, the limestone lands, in the lower part of the County, now so valuable in the hands of the German farmers, were not held in high estimation, on account of the scarcity of water, and the Scotch-Irish passed them by to select the slate lands, with the pure springs and mountain air to which they had been accustomed at home. These settlers were of the better order of peasantry, and brought with them the characteristics of their native land. They were moral, industrious and intelligent; and for the most part were rigid Presbyterians, or 'Seceders'. They were frugal, as the Scotch always are -- plain in their mode of living, but cordial and hospitable. They were universally men of undaunted courage and high patriotic feeling; and when the alarm of revolution first rang through the land, it called no truer or more willing hearts than those of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The manners and characters of the early settlers have been very generally inherited by their descendants -- many of whom still cultivate the same farms, worship in the same old churches, and hold fast to the rigid and venerated 'form of sound words' of the Presbyterian Church. ** Within the last 45 years, those from Ireland and Scotland and their descendants, have been supplanted by Germans", etc.

In Egle's History (p. 281) the names of early settlers, previously residing in the lower end of York County and Maryland are corrected in spelling from Rupp's list, as follows: William McClellan, Joseph Farris, Hugh McKean, Matthew Black, Robert McPherson, William Black, James Agnew, John Alexander, Moses Jenkins, Richard Hall, Richard Fosset, Adam Hall, James Wilson, John Steel, John Johnson, John Hamilton, Hugh Vogan, John McWharter, Hugh Sweeny, Titus Dailey, Thomas Hosack, some of the Allisons, Campbells, Morrisons, Edies, etc. To these may be added certain families of known Maryland derivation appearing in early records as Sharp, Wallace and Robinson. James Agnew, it may be noted, was witness to the Will of Kezia Alexander Sharp (1750). Hugh McKean, as appears, was a son-in-law of Hans Hamilton.

Meetings toward organization of York County (from Lancaster) in 1749 and Courts (prior to 1756) were held in private homes, that of Hans Hamilton being used for such on occasion. An early election contest has been described. Hans Hamilton opposed Richard McAllister (later Colonel in Revolution and founder of Hanover) for Sheriff in 1749. Hamilton was strongly supported by the "Irish", McAllister by the Germans. The activities of McAllister's supporters aroused the ire of Hamilton's. Several of the "Irish" took possession of the polls, located in an unfurnished log building, with an opening for deposit of tickets. An affray ensued in which there were blows and broken heads. The Irish were routed and the Germans elected McAllister by

an overwhelming majority. However, Hamilton won out! He was the favorite of the new Governor, James Hamilton (apparently unrelated), who commissioned him in 1749 and again in 1750, when a fresh election riot broke out also over Assembly candidates. "Both parties appealed to the Assembly, the Sheriff was called to the bar of that body, and publicly admonished to maintain better order in his county in the future." (Egle, p. 1171)

Hans Hamilton's name appears prominently in the early history of Cumberland Valley. Following Braddock's defeat in 1755, the consequent alarm on the frontier and a meeting called by Sheriff John Potter in October of that year at which it was decided to build a chain of protective forts, Hamilton was closely associated with the Potters: father and son in defense measures. He was Captain of forces centered at Fort Littleton for a time, defended an attack on McCord's Fort and joined the expedition to Kittanning under General Armstrong in 1756. He was Lt. Colonel under Armstrong in the Forbes Expedition of 1758 to Ft. Duquesne. The name in various records is spelled "Hance", but "Hans" appears frequently among early Hamiltons in Scotland and Ireland and is doubtless correct.

His relationship, if any, to the John Hamilton line referred to herein, is uncertain.

RECORDS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY (PA.) MILITIA.

(From Penna. Archives 5" Series, Vol. 8, p. 646; and
"Annals of Buffalo Valley" Linn, pp. 104-5)

"Wednesday, March 13, 1776. The committee (of safety) met at the house of Frederick Stone, in Northumberland town, agreeable to adjournment, Capt. John Hambright in the chair, when the following gentlemen made returns of their officers, captains, subalterns,&c. properly certified, viz:

William Plunket, Esquire, Colonel,
James Murray, Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel
Mr. John Brady, First Major,
Mr. Cookson Long, Second Major.

Captain, Henry Antis, Esquire,
First Lieutenant, Thomas Brandon,
Second Lieutenant, Alexander Hamilton,
First Ensign, John Morison,
Second Ensign, James Alexander,

Captain, Samuel Wallis,
First Lieutenant, John Scudder,
Second Lieutenant, Peter Jones,
Ensign, James Hampton.

Captain, John Robb,
First Lieutenant, William Watson,
Second Lieutenant, Robert Wilson,
Ensign, James White.

Captain, William McElhatton,
First Lieutenant, Andrew Boggs,
Second Lieutenant, Thomas Wilson,
Ensign, John McCormick.

Captain, William Murray,
First Lieutenant, Richard Irwin,
Second Lieutenant, Thomas Plunkett,
First Ensign, Andrew Robinson,
Second Ensign, BENJAMIN JORDON.

Captain, Simon Cool,
First Lieutenant, Thomas Camplen,
Second Lieutenant, James Brandon,
First Ensign, William King,
Second Ensign, James Hewes,
Captain, David Berry,
First Lieutenant, William Hammond,
Second Lieutenant, Joseph Bonser,
Ensign, Israel Pershel.

Certified March 13, 1776, to Com. of Safety, Phila., John Hambright, Chairman.

Penna. Archives (above); "A muster roll of Capt. Cookson Long's company of 2nd Bat. Northumberland Co. Militia, under command of COL. JAMES POTTER, now in actual service: Private ** BENJAMIN JORDAN." Certified 3" Dec. 1776 by James Murray Lt. Col." Also p. 656, "List of Officers 3rd Bat. Northumberland Co. Militia" lists ENSIGN BENJAMIN JORDAN, March 13, 1776.

GEORGE READ (1734-1796) and GEORGE ROSS (1730-1779

The question of relationship between the families of these eminent men, both signers of the Declaration of Independence, and our own Reads naturally arises. The answer from all available evidence is negative. However, they derive from the same racial and community background as ours, lived contemporaneously, their property and political interests were analagous and they have important places in regional as well as national history.

GEORGE READ was a delegate to the Continental Congress from Delaware, GEORGE ROSS from Pennsylvania. They were brothers-in-law. Both had legal training.

These family names were too prevalent in colonial history to enable a researcher to distinguish antecedent lines with absolute certainty, but the identification of our own line from the early eighteenth century is sufficiently definite to satisfy the writer that they ran closely parallel if they did not actually converge with these particular Reads and Rosses.

The father of George Read was JOHN READ (1688-1756) who came from Dublin, Ireland, at early age and located in Cecil County, Maryland. He married Mary Howell, of Welsh descent and their eldest son George was born in said County in 1733. Careful examination of land and probate records precludes any confusion with our ancestor John Read living in "New Munster" about this time (c. 1720-1794). The former was located nearby and later engaged in business as storekeeper and miller at Christiana Bridge, Delaware. As this was the point to which most of the planters of New Munster delivered grain, and only about six miles distant, neighborly contacts were inevitable.

The above John Read first appears in Cecil County records in a Deed of August 6, 1733, from Mary Nowland of Hopewell, Cecil Co., widow, to "John Read of New Munster, store-keeper," with mortgage same date to said Nowland covering 100 acres, part of "Hopewell" in Milford Hundred; the same tract is deeded back, Read to Nowland, May 6, 1735. In the interim, George Read, eldest son, was born (Sept. 18, 1733) and John Read, the father, apparently removed to New Castle County, Delaware, in 1735, and continued operation of a store and mill at Christiana Bridge for an indefinite period. Meanwhile he became interested in other lands in Cecil Co., Md. Two tracts at least, "Kinsley" and "Read's Addition" were acquired in 1755, and he was one of the projectors and lot owners of the town of Charlestown, Md. about 1742.

This John Read died in 1756. He was apparently a Presbyterian, having been buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery near Christiana Bridge. His family became members of Immanuel (Episcopal) Church of New Castle. Two of his sons, John and Andrew, appear frequently in Cecil County records later, John Read, Jr., being a Justice of the Peace for Cecil County. Careful checking of records, and even signatures, prevent any possible confusion with our John Read.

The son, George Read, attended Dr. Francis Alison's Academy at New London, Pa. (about 3 miles north of New Munster tract), studied law at Philadelphia, and his career as statesman and jurist developed in Delaware. Rev. Thomas Read, son of our John Read, was also a student under Dr. Alison later at the Philadelphia Academy, 1764-1766.

The first record of our ancestor John Read, a "planter" in Cecil County, is Deed from William Sample, June 5, 1742, of a tract of land in New Munster, "binding on James Alexander's land" near lands later acquired by his son, Alexander Read, and lands of one William Read. In said deed, John Read is described as "of the County of Chester, Province of Pennsylvania" but we know that he lived thence-forth in New Munster until his death in 1794 and that his children were born there. Tradition fixes his origin as North Ireland. His location was north of the Signer's birthplace (probably three miles) being North Milford Hundred and close to the "Nottingham-Christiana Bridge Highway" now known as Route 273, near the Delaware line.

In 1763 George Read married Gertrude, daughter of Rev. George Ross (1679-1754), Rector of Immanuel Church at New Castle.

The public career of George Read, as member of the Delaware Assembly, the Continental Congress, the United States Senate and as Chief Justice of the State of Delaware, is of course too well known to require praise or reiteration here. His home was an unpretentious brick structure on the river front of New Castle, which was burned in 1824. His son, George Read, Jr. (1765-1636) himself an eminent lawyer and for thirty years United States District Attorney for Delaware built the Read Mansion on The Strand at New Castle about 1801. This is one of the finest remaining examples of the best Georgian architecture of the period and having fortunately fallen into the hands of related owners who have sought to preserve its finest features, including the walled garden, it continues to excite admiration.

George Read, Jr., married Mary, daughter of General William Thompson, of Pennsylvania, who was his first cousin. Further reference to the eminent General is made under George Ross. Their son, George Read, 3rd, born 1788, died 1836, married Louisa Ridgely (1792-1835) daughter of Dr. Nathan Dorsey. Another son, William Thompson Read, born 1792, died 1873, became the author of "Life and Correspondence of George Read" (Phila. 1870) in which many details of this prominent family appear, as also in Scharf's "History of Delaware" and "Record of the Redes, etc." by Compton Reade (in my library). The wife of William Thompson Read was "Sally Latimer Read, daughter of Charles and Susanna Thomas" born 1798, died 1871.

John Read, the paterfamilias is said to have had six sons and a daughter. Two others than George reached national prominence, Col. James Read (1743-1823) and Commander Thomas Read (1740-1788) of the United States Navy. There was also a son William Read and two whose names appear frequently in Cecil County land records - John and Andrew Read. This John Read was one of the Justices for Cecil County and in order to check identification the writer personally examined papers containing his signature, together with the signature of our own John Read to his will (1794) which are totally unlike.

The only daughter of John Read (sister of George Read) married Gunning Bedford, who subsequently became Governor of the State of Delaware.

There are said to be at least seven generations of the Signer's family buried in the churchyard of Immanuel Church at New Castle, his own monument with inscription of his many honors and dates 1734-1798, representing an American "shrine."

GEORGE ROSS (1730-1779)

REV. GEORGE ROSS (1679-1754) was the son of David Ross, of Balblair, Scotland. He came to New Castle, Del. about 1705 as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Shortly thereafter he founded Immanuel Church. He continued as rector until his death in 1754 at the age of 75 years. He was twice married: (1) Joanna Williams and (2) Catherine Van Gezel and was the father of thirteen children. Rev. Eneas Ross, a son by the first marriage (who m. Sarah Leech) succeeded as rector of Immanuel Church in 1758. John Ross, the son of Eneas and Sarah Ross, married Elizabeth Griscomb, who became the "Betsy Ross" of flag fame. Joanna, daughter of Eneas and Sarah Ross, married Captain Thomas Holland.

GEORGE ROSS, the signer, son of Rev. George Ross, by his second wife, was born at New Castle, 1730. He studied law with his elder brother, John, an able lawyer, at Philadelphia and settled at Lancaster about 1751. He married Ann Lawler, of that City - then a rising frontier town. He became a member of the provincial Assembly, the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence and finally, in 1779 was appointed a Judge of the Pennsylvania Court of Admiralty. He died in July, 1779, within a few months of his appointment.

Ross' career was not spectacular. He was apparently not the military or frontiersman type but he was esteemed a good lawyer. He was closely associated with James Wilson and his brother-in-law, Edward Biddle, of Reading, in practice. He is ranked with others prominent at the bar in his day, such as Joseph Galloway, John Dickinson, William Lewis, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Joseph Reed and his brother John Ross at Philadelphia. A contemporary, William Rawle, made this comment respecting him:

> "The talents of George Ross were much above mediocrity. His manner was insinuating and persuasive, accompanied with a species of pleasantry and habitual good humor. His knowledge of the law was sufficient to obtain respect from the Court, and his familiar manner secured the attention of the jury. But he was not industrious and his career after the commencement of the Revolution was short."

The lawyers from the "hustings" - Lancaster, York, Carlisle and Reading travelled the circuit in those days, as did the judges later, and doubtless crossed swords frequently with the best city talent. Cases consisted of land rights, titles, trespass or debt along with the common crimes. There was time for thorough and profound exposition of these with inescapable participation in public issues. The great field of constitutional privileges and inhibitions, confiscated properties and states rights was in the offing, while the magic influence of the "Philadelphia lawyer" in the provinces had to await arrival of the industrial age with its canals, railroads and colossal trade expansion before acquiring full sway.

The influence of family relationships on individual careers was never more evident than in the case of George Ross.

Other children of Rev. George and Catherine Van Gezel Ross were:

Gertrude, who m. (1) Isaac Till and (2) GEORGE READ
Catherine who m. (General) William Thompson
Elizabeth who m. Edward Biddle, lawyer, of Reading, Pa.
Susanna who m. (Reverend) William Thompson
Mary who m. Mark Bird, Ironmaster of Berks County, Pa.

James who m. Elanor ______________
Margaret who m. (1) Rev. Walter Hackett (2) Rev. Mr. Curry, of Philadelphia.

These were all relatively distinguished alliances, and all apparently bore issue. Two daughters married men of the same name, supposedly unrelated. General William Thompson was in command of the first Pennsylvania rifle regiment raised for the Revolution. He had been a captain at the destruction of Kittanning in 1756 and later took an important part in Revolutionary battles. He died on his farm near Carlisle in 1781 and was buried in the cemetery of St. John's P. E. Church, within the burial lot of Judge Hamilton, whose wife was related to him.

Rev. William Thompson was the son of a Presbyterian minister, Samuel Thompson, who was located at "Meeting House Spring" on the Conondoguinet, near Carlisle as early as 1740. The son became a missionary of the Propagation Society (Episcopal) at Carlisle and York, later rector of St. Stephens Parish in Cecil County, Md. He died 1785. Neither of these are apparently related to our own line of Thompsons.

This strange coincidence of names is almost matched in George Read's family. His sister, Polly, married Gunning Bedford, of Delaware, a Revolutionary officer who became Governor of the State. There was another Gunning Bedford, living contemporaneously, a first cousin; graduate of Nassau Hall (Princeton) 1771; an Attorney General of Delaware and Delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

Marriages between this Ross line and descendants of William Bird, the pioneer ironmaster and founder of Birdsboro, Berks County; the marriage of James Wilson (signer) to Rachael Bird, daughter of William, together with the George Read and General Thompson connections, seem to have produced complicated family interests in various iron-furnace and landholding projects throughout Pennsylvania. They extended to lands in Cumberland and Bedford Counties and involved the history of the fast developing iron industry. The story of the rise and collapse of Mark Bird's ventures is one of excessive zeal and over-extension similar to that of Robert Morris, Timothy Pickering and many other bold projectors. They all tend to confirm the inexorable movements of the economic cycle by which family fortunes rise and fall.

George Ross, Jr., son of the Signer, married a Mary Bird also. Their children were:

1. Ann, m. James Hopkins
2. Patton
3. William Bird
4. Gertrude Read
5. George W.
6. Thomas R.
7. Robert Coleman
8. Caroline m. Samuel Orrick
9. Eliza J. m. Dr. Abraham Carpenter.

Dr. Abraham Carpenter was prominent in Lancaster County history and a member of the State Assembly.

Another son of George Ross, Signer, was James Ross who in 1775 raised a company in Lancaster for service under Col. William Thompson and was at Boston with Washington's Army. He rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel during the war and later was appointed a judge in Louisiana territory. He died in 1808, apparently a bachelor.

ALEXANDER FAMILY - DESCENT FROM SCOTTISH ROYALTY.

Lineage of JOSEPH ALEXANDER, of New Munster, as given by Mrs. Meeker:

1. GODRED CRAVEN, King of Dublin, of Mars and of the Hebrides.
2. Claus or Olave, third son
3. Effrica married Somerled or Sorlet of Argyle, King of the Isles, Ireland, slain at Renfrew, 1164.
4. Ronald or Reginald, second son, died 1207
5. Donald, eldest son
6. Angus, died before 1282
7. Angus or MacDonald died 1329, married Margaret O'Cathan, daughter of Guy
8. John of Isla, died 1329, 1st Lord of the Isles, married first, Amy, sister of Ronald, son of Rory of the Isles; Ronald was murdered 1346 and Amy became his heir. John added these lands to his and became 1st Lord of the Isles.
9. Alexander, Lord of Lochaber, known as "Alastair Carrach" ancestor of the MacDonalds of Keppoch, Delchousnie, etc.
10. Alexander MacDonald, Lord of Lochaber,
11. Allister or Alexander, founded the House of MacAlexander or MacAlister, later called by the name Alexander.
12. Thomas Alexander, living in 1505
13. Andrew Alexander married Catherine Graham
14. Alexander Alexander, died 1545, of Menstrie, married before 8/26/1529, Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of Sir Robert Douglas.

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1. ROBERT de BRUCE (1274-1329) Spider-watcher and victor of Bannockburn, Crowned King of Scotland at Scone, 27 March 1306, married Isabel Mar, daughter of Donald, 10th Earl of Mar.
2. Princess Margey, died 1316, married Walter Steward (Sixth High Steward)
3. Robert Stewart (Stuart)(1316-1390) ascended throne of Scotland 1370 as ROBERT II, first of Stuarts to govern Scotland; married Lady Elizabeth Mure, daughter of Sir Adam Mure.
4. Catherine Stuart married Sir John Lindsay, 1st Earl of Crawford.
5. Lady Margie married Sir William Douglas of Lockleven and Lugton
6. Sir Henry Douglas married Lady Elizabeth Erskin.
7. Robert of Lockleven and Kincress k. at Floden, married Elizabeth Boswell, daughter of Balmute
8. Sir Robert, Knt. (only son) married Eliz. Boyd, dau. Archibald, son of Sir Robert Boyd, 1st Lord Boyd, Regent Scotland 1466.
9. Thomas Douglas
10. Elizabeth Douglas married Alexander Alexander, died 1545.
11. Andrew Alexander, of Menstrie, (eldest son) 4th Baron of Menstrie.
12. William of Menstrie
13. Alexander Alexander (died 1581) married Elizabeth Forbes
14. William Alexander (1566-1640) only son, poet and secretary of state for Scotland, 1st Earl of Stirling, married Lady Janet Erskin, daughter of Sir William.
15. JAMES ALEXANDER born before 1618, d. Dec. 9, 1671, m. Aug. 1656 Margaret Scrimegeour, dau. of David, gr. dau. 1st Viscount Dunhope. She died 1662. He married 2nd before 1668 Grizel Hay, dau. of James Hay. One daughter by Grizel Hay.

This JAMES ALEXANDER, born before 1618, had six sons who came to America together. They were: Andrew, William, JOSEPH, Samuel, James and John.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER and his son JAMES were joint purchasers with other Alexanders and Matthew Wallace, in 1714, of the tract of land called NEW MUNSTER, in Cecil County, Maryland. The son, James Alexander, whose will was probated in Cecil County 1779, was the father of AMOS ALEXANDER, who married SARAH SHARP, of Theophilus, Hezekiah, John McKnitt, et al.

There are several books giving the ancestry and descendants of William Alexander, First Earl of Stirling. Scott's Peerage names eleven children of Lord Stirling, and Rodger's "Earl of Stirling" gives the name of his wife as Janet, only daughter of Sir William Erskin. JAMES is given as No. 8 in the list and is as follows:

James Alexander matriculated at the University of Glasgow, 1635, subsequently served in the Royalist Army in 1666, Capt. and Lt. Col. in His Majesty's Foot Guards. He left the Army Dec. 2, 1668 and died three years later, buried Dec. 9, 1671; married first, Aug. 1656 Margaret, dau. David Scrimgeour, son of Viscount Dunhope. She was buried in Holyrood in Jan. 1662, and he married, second, about 1668, Grizel, dau. James Hay, second son of George, second Earl of Kinnoull. By the second marriage he had Margaret Alexander, bapt. June 23, 1669.

The foregoing record of descents was received by me June, 1942 from Dr. E. B. Tucker, President of Austin College, Sherman, Texas, a descendant of our line of Alexanders through Theophilus Alexander. It is said to have been prepared by Dr. Sidney Meeker, of Memphis, Tennessee, another descendant who died about 1935, after making careful investigations of authorities and of records in Mecklenburg County, N. C., Cecil and Somerset Counties, Maryland. I understand Dr. Meeker also prepared the "tree", of which I have a copy. I have no reason to question the authenticity of his findings. C.R.McK.

NOTE ON JAMES WHITE AND CHARLES McCLUNG

James White (1747-1821) and his son-in-law Charles McClung (1761-1835) antecedents of Keith McClung Price McKenrick, Stratford's wife, are prominently identified with the early settlement history of the Holston region of Tennessee and the founding of Knoxville.

James White was born 1747 in Rowan (later Iredell) County, North Carolina, the son of Scotch-Irish parents, Moses and Mary McConnell White. April 14, 1770, he married Mary, daughter of Hugh Lawson. They became the parents of seven children, of whom the most noted was Hugh Lawson White.

During the Revolution, James White served as Captain of Militia, 1779-81. After passage in 1783 of the Act by which North Carolina granted lands to Revolutionary soldiers, White with Robert Love, Francis A. Ramsey and others began an exploration on the French Broad and Holston rivers, seeking the most advantageous region in which to locate their claims.

In 1786 he established his residence at the present site of Knoxville, first known as White's Fort. He was a member of the Convention held in 1785 which created the abortive state of Franklin. This project, headed by John Sevier met dissolution three years later.

In 1789 James White was a member of the North Carolina legislature and of the Convention which ratified the Federal Constitution.

Upon creation of the "Territory of Tennessee" in 1790, comprising the three western counties of North Carolina, Governor William Blount appointed him justice of the peace and major of militia. He was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives and of the Convention which formed a constitution for the new state of Tennessee in 1796. He became speaker of the State Senate and on occasion a commander of troops for defense against Indians. Eventually he was commissioned brigadier-general. In 1798 he was appointed agent on the part of the state to effect a treaty with the Cherokees with respect to land claims. His son Hugh Lawson White was Governor Blount's private secretary and later he became United States Senator. Father and son lived in the thick of important events and their personal activities had historical significance.

The Holston settlements are closely related to James Robertson's Watauga Association of 1772 to Richard Henderson's Transylvania project of 1775 and to John Sevier's all but perfected State of Franklin. The explorations of Daniel Boone, Christopher Gist and others tie in closely with contemporaneous pioneers and land seekers. The spirit of the times also stirred bold plotters of the Burr type into action. The dramatic story of our western expansion is too broad to be compressed into a brief biographical sketch and research into the period and region is strongly urged. It is an especially inviting subject where our own forbears have been principal actors.

October 28, 1790, Charles McClung, who had emigrated to the Holston region from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, about two years previously married Margaret White. In 1792 James White, assisted by his son-in-law McClung, who was a surveyor, laid out the town of Knoxville on lands already occupied by White. It became a center of increasing population and traffic, was selected as the seat of territorial government and first capitol of the new state.

James White was donor of the site for the First Presbyterian Church and of the land upon which Blount College, now the University of Tennessee was built. Both White and McClung became trustees of that institution under an act of the territorial legislature in 1794. Charles McClung was appointed Clerk of Knox County at its formation in 1792. He also became a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1796.

The Dictionary of American Biography vol. 20 contains a sketch of White. A principal authority is Dr. James G. M. Ramsey's "Annals of Tennessee" published 1853 (in my library). Dr. Ramsey (1797-1884) was the son of Col. Francis A. Ramsey above mentioned, who married Peggy Alexander, daughter of John McKnitt Alexander, of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, kin to this compiler through the common ancestor James Alexander of New Munster, Cecil County, Maryland.

Undoubtedly there was close relationship between the numerous Scotch-Irish families settled in North Carolina prior to the Revolution and those who later constituted a flood of migration into the new settlements of Tennessee, Kentucky and contiguous territories.

A few of many references to James White in Ramsey's history are quoted:

Page 278:
"In August 1783 the late General James White, Col. Robert Love and Col. F. A. Ramsey and others for the purpose of locating land warrants, explored the country as low as the confluence of the Holston and Tennessee. They crossed the French Broad at the war ford, etc. ***. It was upon this tour that General White and Col. Ramsey saw the lands, which they afterwards entered and eventually occupied in the present Knox County."

Page 372
"In the fork between Holston and French Broad new settlers began their clearings (1786) * * James White, afterwards the proprietor of Knoxville first pitched his tent four miles above the mouth of French Broad and on its north bank near the present residence of John Campbell Esq."

Page 374
"James White (1787) had moved from his first cabin in the fork and settled on what is since White's Creek. With Capt. White came his old neighbor from Iredell County, N. C. and comrade in arms, James Conner. * * These two were the first to disturb the virgin soil, on which the future Knoxville was to be built. Tradition says that the lot on which the First Presbyterian Church now stands was the place first cleared by them. Their cabin afterwards constituted one corner of White's Fort."

It was here that Governor Blount called a meeting with Cherokee chiefs in 1791 at which a treaty of peace was effected. Justin Winsor, in his "Westward Movement", pp. 358 and 516 refers to the White's Fort settlement.

The chain of descent from James and Mary Lawson White to Keith McClung Price McKenrick, through her mother, Minnie Keith McClung Price appears in "The McClung Genealogy". (Rev. William McClung, 1904) pp. 20-28, with a portrait of Col. Charles McClung. C.R.McK. 1949.

NOTE ON HUGH LAWSON WHITE

The prominence of Hugh Lawson White in American history during the Jackson era makes unnecessary detailed reference to him here. At the same time presidential candidates are too rare in our family connections to be overlooked.

He was the eldest of seven children of James and Mary Lawson White, born October 30, 1773. Died April 10, 1840. Two daughters survived him.

He was educated under Rev. Samuel Carrick, pioneer Presbyterian clergyman and Judge Archibald Roane. Later he studied at Philadelphia and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He became private secretary to Governor William Blount at the age of 20. In 1796 he commenced the practice of law at Knoxville. In 1798 he married Elizabeth Moore Carrick, daughter of his old preceptor. In 1801 he was made Judge of Superior Court. In 1807 he was elected to the State Senate; served as U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee for a year and became president of the State Bank of Tennessee in 1812. In 1813 when Gen. Andrew Jackson was conducting his campaign against the Creek Indians, Gen. James White and his son Hugh were co-operating on the Coosa River.

In 1824 when Andrew Jackson resigned from the United States Senate Hugh Lawson White was elected to complete his unexpired term. By repeated elections he served in the Senate until resignation in 1840.

He was a close ally and supporter of Jackson until differences arose on the bank issue. He was placed in nomination for the presidency in opposition to Van Buren in 1836, carrying the states of Tennessee and Georgia. Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. in his "Age of Jackson" (p. 211) refers to White as "a lean sinewy man with a long, emaciated face and flowing gray hair, thrown back from his forehead and curling on his shoulders. His plain manners, firm conscience and sturdy sense of honor had won him wide respect." Frequent references to White will be found in Wm. Graham Sumner's "Andrew Jackson" and in all histories of Tennessee and the Southwest. Also see "Memoir of Hugh Lawson White" by Nancy N. Scott.

JOSHUA MARSH (1757-1825). Captain of Militia, Revolutionary War. See Maryland Archives, Vol. 43, p. 345, Journal and Correspondence of Council of Maryland. "Tuesday 31 October 1780. Commission issued to Joshua Marsh, appointed Captain in the room of Henry Howard *** Gunpowder Upper Battalion of Militia in Baltimore County." Also see Vol. 45, pp. 159, 650 for references to Joshua Marsh as Captain.

STEPHEN MARSH (1786-1829). Son of Joshua. Served as private in "First Baltimore Hussars, 5th Regiment, Maryland Cavalry Militia" at the Battle of North Point, September 12, 1814, under Captain Joseph Sterett. Record from "Muster Rolls on file in the office of the Third Auditor of the Treasury of U. S." Also see "Citizen Soldiers at North Point," Pratt Library.

JOHN STRATFORD DAMER SANDYS (1839-1897). Enlisted at Richmond, Virginia, July 13, 1861, as private in First Maryland Artillery, Confederate States of America, Capt. R. Snowden Andrews, under the name John Stratford Damer. Served throughout war with unit known as Dement's Battery (Capt. W. F. Dement). Suffered leg wounds which seriously impaired his health. Goldsborough's History states that Dement's Battery was "composed of young men from 18 to 20 years of age. They were imbued with a spirit of patriotism that overcame all sense of fear and made them invincible upon the field of battle and it was one of the very few batteries in the Army of Northern Virginia that never lost a gun, and no battery in that army saw more hard fighting or lost more men." Buried in Confederate lot, Loudon Park Cemetery.

CHARLES MORTIMER TRAIL. Son of Frederick Mortimer and Louise Marsh Trail, of Barnesville and Frederick, Maryland. Uncle of Letitia D. S. McKenrick. Enlisted in Second Maryland Infantry (C.S.A.) under Lt. Col. James R. Herbert, Co. A., Capt. William H. Murray, at Baltimore, in 1861 at age of 16. His family were living on Lombard Street where Union soldiers were stationed. He raised a Confederate flag on the house on two occasions and was forced to take it down on threat of being shot. He also carried food to Confederate soldiers secreted in the cellar of his home. Upon discovery he escaped through the blockade and joined the 2" Md. Infantry. He was severely wounded at Gettysburg July 3, 1863, during the fierce assault on Culp's Hill. Goldsborough's History states "The casualties in the 2" Md. Infantry were frightful during the two days fighting and many of the wounded were left behind when the army fell back." Lt. Col. Herbert and Major W. W. Goldsborough were seriously wounded. Capt. Wm. H. Murray was killed. Only a fragment of the original unit escaped death or injury. Charles Mortimer Trail married Mary Rogers, of Buffalo, New York, about 1870. He died prior to 1890. Aunt Mary Trail survived to 1920. Left no issue. She resided at Chautauqua, New York, and Florida in later life.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Father made random notes of wartime experiences. Some are literally quoted:

> "In 1861 came to Chambersburg with cousin Jacob Cole to enlist; friends prevented it. Sent father word. He came and took us home. Thus General Patterson lost two boy recruits."
>
> "In 1862 at time of battle of Antietam was in town (Chambersburg) with load of peaches. A regiment on way to battlefield took peaches. I struck them with whip. They cleaned me entirely out and in return pelted me with peaches. I was arrested and taken before Judge Kimmell, provost marshal. I was impressed into service with horse and spring wagon to take a load of hospital supplies to Antietam; soldier on seat with me; delivered load near old church. Saw many men and horses dead on battlefield. Picked up a non com officer's sword and have it in my collection of war relics."
>
> "Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart in fall 1862 raided Chambersburg, burned railroad depot and pressed out into Cumberland Valley and across South Mountain into Adams County, taking six-horse team from Uncles George and John Cole, etc. I have heavy dragoon sabre carried by one of Stuart's raider's on this raid."
>
> "July 30, 1864 I was arrested and my horse taken, near Greenwood and brought before George Eyster, provost marshal at Chambersburg. Charge made that I was a Rebel spy. Rebel sympathizers had piloted a company of Confederate Cavalry into the mountains in June 1863 and captured a lot of horses etc. I was detained and my horse kept. Sent to jail for a hearing next morning. About 6 or 7 a.m. Rebels came and burned the town. All prisoners were released and I never got my hearing. I was taken into Virginia and released by General Early."

The story of a meeting thirty years after the battle of Gettysburg between Father and William H. Connell - a Union veteran, at Ebensburg, Penna., was published in the Johnstown "Tribune" in 1905 and later in the Clearfield "Raftsman's Journal" relating the incidents surrounding their first meeting on the battlefield, when Connell was wounded and father was serving on the ambulance corps with Gen. Kemper's brigade of Pickett's Division. Our family scrapbooks have the full story, including an eye-witness account of Gen. Pickett's disastrous charge. A brief quotation from Editor M. L. McQuown's report in the "Raftsman's Journal" follows:

> "It was our pleasure to meet J. F. McKenrick, Esq., of Ebensburg, Pa. on his recent visit to Clearfield. Many of our readers will remember him whilst a citizen of this county where he was a teacher in the Clearfield schools and for two terms District Attorney of this County.
>
> "Our acquaintance began years ago when both were engaged in teaching. Mr. McKenrick is a native of Adams County, Pa. and was present at the dedication of the National Cemetery on November 9, 1863 and saw and heard Abraham Lincoln deliver the address that is inseparably associated with his life and a masterpiece of literature. Incidentally he described the battle of Gettysburg as he saw it from the Confederate side. Mr. McKenrick lived near and was acquainted with the country in the vicinity of Gettysburg. The section in which he lived was practically in the "Confederacy" from June 26th until July 7th when Mead's army advanced following the retreat of Lee. * * Attracted by a desire to help care for the wounded and a curiosity to see the fight, Mr. McKenrick entered the Confederate lines, donned the badge of the Confederate ambulance corps

> and rendered what service he could in alleviating the sufferings of the wounded. During the 3rd and 4th of July he served with the ambulance corps of Kemper's brigade of Pickett's division, saw Pickett's charge repulsed and Lee's retreat, after which he remained for two days assisting in burying the dead of both armies. To hear him narrate the many instances of the battle is very interesting; in fact the description given by eye witnesses is more impressive than can be conveyed in cold type."

Then follows the Tribune's account of the accidental meeting of Messrs. McKenrick and Connell at Ebensburg in 1893 with comment on their activities and observations on the battlefield, including a graphic description of Pickett's charge. In February 1910 Mrs. LaSalle Corbell Pickett, the General's widow, was entertained at our home at Ebensburg during her lecture tour and introduced by Father. The town paper stated:

> "In a very eloquent address, attorney J. F. McKenrick who was on the field at Gettysburg at the time of the battle, introduced Mrs. Pickett to the audience. * * A large number of old veterans were present but only one, William H. Connell, a member of the famous "Bucktails," who had fought at Gettysburg."

The following eulogistic account of Father was written by his old friend Jim Goodlander, publisher of the Clearfield "Republican", at the time of his death in August 1913. This was twenty years after we had left Clearfield:

> "Word reached Clearfield Tuesday morning that J. F. McKenrick, former District Attorney of this County, had died at his home in Ebensburg after an illness of several months. He was 68 years of age * *. Joseph Francis McKenrick was born in the Buchanan Valley, Adams Co., Penna., May 9, 1845 * * *. He came to Clearfield County in 1865 and first located in the Penn Township neighborhood, following the trade of carpenter in the summer and taught school in the winter. He taught several terms in the township schools and in Curwensville before coming to Clearfield in 1873. He taught in the old Methodist Church building on Cherry Street the winter of 1873-74 and in the Leonard Graded School several years following. He took up the study of law in the office of the late Senator William A. Wallace in 1876 and was admitted to the bar of this County June 24, 1878. The following year he was elected District Attorney and was reelected in 1882 * * *. There never was a harder worker in any profession than J. F. McKenrick; tireless, possessing a splendid physique, his capacity for work was phenomenal and he never stopped until he reached the end he was after. Not only in the law was he a wonderful lawyer, but in any line he took up. During his residence in Clearfield he was a member and foreman of the Clearfield Fire Department. Never before or since was the department in this town in better condition. He was thoroughness itself and his attention to detail was as remarkable as his wonderful tenacity. As carpenter, school teacher, public official and general practitioner he was very successful and never knew the words fail or quit.
>
> "As husband, father, citizen and neighbor, Mr. McKenrick was true to all requirements and no man was more willing to go the limit for a friend or help those in distress. He was the ideal husband, devoted to his family and always standing for the higher and better things in this life.
>
> "In the late sixties he was married to Miss Eleanor Read, daughter of the late Ross Read, then of Lawrence Township, afterwards of Clearfield. They raised a large family of sons and daughters, the following of whom, with their mother, survive * * *. He is also survived by three brothers, etc. * * *."

NOTE ON MOTHER'S DIARIES

From 1863 at least - her twentieth year, to the birth of her eighth child Elsie, in 1887, Mother kept a diary. Scarcely a day missed its due narration.

For the most part the matters recorded are trivial events of family and home, state of weather, household jobs, social visits and church attendance. These are of slight importance in themselves, except as they depict a way of life, but they reflect also a thoughtful mind, serious purposes, methodical habits and great industry.

Zeal for education and spiritual advancement ruled Mother's life. Efforts toward self improvement were apparent in all of her plans and activities during girlhood. The oft-repeated text of her lessons to us later was "Cultivate your talents". I feel that it is worth while preserving a few excerpts that tend to vivify the scenes from which her pattern of living evolved.

Her 1863 diary opens with school attendance at Clearfield Town, three miles from home on "The Ridges":

> March 31. I commenced going to school to Mr. Sandford (Clearfield Academy). I also began to take music lessons from Miss Rynder. I am boarding at Mr. T. McCullough's.
>
> Wed. April 1. I am at school. Took my music lesson also. I was at prayer meeting.
>
> Thursday and Friday. I was at school and took a lesson on the piano. On Saturday I was at Mr. McCullough's and Miss Rynder's.
>
> Sunday, April 5. I was at Presbyterian Church morning and evening.
>
> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. I was at school. At Presbyterian prayer meeting Wednesday night. Thursday and Friday I was at school. Friday evening I went home. Uncle Moses Norris was buried on Saturday. I came down to Mr. Brown's on Sunday evening.
>
> Tuesday, April 14. I am at school today. * * I took a music lesson this morning. * *
>
> April 16. I started to go home this morning. It rained so hard I only got as far as Uncle Amos'. Stayed there all night. Saturday, I am at home today working and planting trees. Sunday evening I came to town, walked all the way. Till, Martha Carol, Rosie and Mant came half way with me. Eliza and little Mary came in sight of Antes' house along. * *
>
> Tuesday, April 21. I took my music lesson this morning. I am at school today. Sanford scolded me a little this morning. I like to come to school better than I did at first. I took a lesson from Miss Rynder this morning, as I do every morning. * * *.
>
> Sunday 26. I just came from Presbyterian Church. Mr. Galloway preached an excellent sermon. His text is found in the Gospel by Luke, 11 Chapter 10th verse.

There is more of such routine life at school in Clearfield Town.

> "Tuesday, May 12. A set of us girls went to singing at Turkey Hill. What a bullie time we had. Saturday evening we went to singing school, John Read sang, at Hazel Green * * Our folks are shearing sheep. * * Rev. Galloway at our house. * * Lyddia Ann Read here.* * June 1. I was down at Pine Grove at singing. * * At Bloomington to Sunday School. * * Sewing at home. * * Church at Curwensville. * * At the concert at Turkey Hill. * * At Sister Jane's. * * Visiting Kate Bell. * * Fred and Alexander (brothers) commenced mowing clover. * * Visited Lib's (sister). * * Mother to town with Fred. * * Visiting Hamilton Read's.
>
> July 10. Sam Ardery started to the Army. * * Pap and mother at Cathcarts. * * John and Tommy Spackman, Calvin Read and Dan Mitchell here. A funny time for Sunday. * * Martha Lytle here. Till and I visiting the Misses Leonard.
>
> July 26. Alex. and I to Curwensville to Church. * * Aunt Rachel and Polly here Monday night. Harry Bigler and Lex Powell were here on Tuesday for dinner.* * Martha and Mint Read here. * * Grandmother sick the past week. August, I carried dirt and made three flower beds. * * Saturday we had a little tea party. There were sixteen girls here. * * Brother Fred is studying medicine under Dr. Woods at Clearfield. Boarding at Aunt Merrill's.

Such incidents are not exciting, but they are illustrative. An interminable roll of visitors and a succession of minor social events such as happened with country folks - singings, apple-cuttings, quiltings, corn huskings and sleighing parties later.

In September, teachers' examinations were held at Clearfield. Mother was assigned a school in Ferguson Township. This was near her cousins the John Straws and Amanda Fergusons. There are seven pupils the first day, October 5th, thirty-three by Christmas. Dec. 21 "Today is so cold I am almost frozen. My school is quite noisy". Dec. 29 "My boys shut the door on me this morning but they let me in later."

Mother taught country school six years, 1862-1867. Her list of schools and account of earnings is summarized as follows:

> "In the summer of 1862 I taught school in Goshen Township for the term of four months. Salary $13. per month, $52., less $10. for board, $42.
>
> "In the fall of 1862 and winter of 1863 I taught school in Lawrence Township for the term of four months. Salary $20. per month. $80., $20. for board $60. clear.
>
> In the fall of 1863 and winter of 1864 I taught school in Ferguson Towsnship for the term of four months. Salary $18. per month, $72. $18. for board, $54. clear.
>
> In the winter and spring of 1864 I taught school in Jordan Township for the term of four months. Salary $22. per month $88., $20. for board, $68. clear.
>
> In the winter, and spring of 1864-1865 I taught school in Lawrence Township for the term of 4½ months. Salary $32½ per month for four months and $12½ for one-half month, $142½. No boarding to pay, boarded at home.

In the winter of 1865 I taught school in Graham Township for the term of two months, $30. per month, $60. $10. for board. Clear $50.

In the winter of 1866 I taught school in Ferguson Township for the term of three months, $30. per month. $90. $18. for board. $72. clear.

In the early spring of 1867 I taught school in Ferguson Township for the term of four months, $25. per month, $100., Board $16, cleared $84.

In the summer of 1867 I taught 2 months school in Knox Township $20. per month. $40., $2. for board $38. clear. Cheap boarding. My last school.

I taught 31½ months in all, $610.50 amount earned."

A few minor expenditures are noted but one of great consequence to her, and to us children later, was the purchase of a Mason & Hamlin Cabinet Organ for $175. in June 1864. This was a rich toned instrument in rosewood case, the first of its kind in Clearfield County it is said. It served as the basis of musical instruction for all of the children down to myself, until replaced by our first upright piano in 1885.

The fact that Father was a schoolteacher also at the time of meeting Mother, and possessed of similar high intellectual and moral aspirations seems another of the happy turns of fate familiar to our family life.

C. R. McK.

IN CONCLUSION

The foregoing material has resulted from a taste for research and a tantalizing curiosity about my forbears and their contemporaries.

There are memories therein of many happy jaunts to county court houses, libraries, cemeteries and old homesites in the gathering process. I have had the advantage of living in closer proximity to the geographical bases of many ancestral lines and also had perhaps greater enthusiasm for the chase than others of my family. Naturally, I have wanted to share the findings with them. For the benefit and convenience of all interested, including posterity, the gist of my notes are contained within this volume. Being far from complete, I trust the interest of others may be aroused, to the end that gaps may be filled and the story amplified.

It is a delightful pursuit, I can testify from experience, and a self compensating one. While mostly plain folks, few celebrities and no supermen will be encountered, the keen huntsman is sure to meet many interesting people and learn a lot of American history. The record of difficulties surmounted and ideals maintained by our predecessors should be a stimulus to the inquiring scribe. Incidentally, the opportunity to appraise one's own deficiencies alongside the merits of an ancestor should promote an humble and reverent spirit rather than self-glorification.

As heritors of the best American traditions, and as potential ancestors ourselves, it falls upon us to maintain the quality of the breed and bring future improvement if possible. Current records of the widespread branches of our family have been neglected in favor of less accessible background material, the sources of which are fast vanishing. It has seemed beyond the compiler's province also to compose biographies of the living. The burden of carrying on must necessarily be shifted. By assuming the role of chronicler for his own, each head of family may contribute greatly to the value of this work in the hands of later generations.

C. R. McK.

NEW MUNSTER

By

CARL ROSS McKENRICK

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NEW MUNSTER

By Carl Ross McKenrick

A plaque placed alongside the improved highway extending from Newark, Delaware, to Rising Sun, Maryland, near the crossing of the Big Elk in Cecil County bears the following legend:

> NEW MUNSTER
>
> A Tract of 6000 Acres laid out in 1683 by George Talbot (then Surveyor-General of Maryland) for Edwin O'Dwire and 15 other Irishmen. Its northern boundary extended into what is now the State of Pennsylvania.

Its odd allusion to the " 15 other Irishmen " naturally excites the curiosity of the fleeting motorist. Though only slightly noticed by historians, the event recorded deserves more than passing comment. It ties in with a broad background of provincial history and expands widely into national. This paper deals with the obvious query why and wherefore the " other Irishmen."

The certificate of survey sets down the metes and bounds minutely and quaintly:

> Beginning at a marked poplar on a high bank over the west side of the Main Fresh of Elk River, and about a pistol shott to the mouth of a rivulet called the Shure, [etc.]

The area embraced ten square miles, one third of which extended into the present Chester County, Pennsylvania, and almost touching the Delaware line on the east, but all well within Lord Baltimore's original grant. The Big Elk pierces the approximate center, the Little Elk is to the West and the headwaters of " Christeen " Creek at the eastern end. It is highly arable, rolling land now thinly populated.

A well preserved eighteenth century stone dwelling stands on the roadside near the marker with foundation marks of extensive farm buildings. There are a few other such landmarks within the tract, including the old Dysart Inn at Appleton Cross Roads, claiming origin in 1714 and known variously as "Seven Stars" and "Fox Chase." By the Big Elk—a great source of water power in early days—there stood until recently the stone walls of a very large mill building. Other similar relics have disappeared. The present day center of interest is the " Fair Hill " steeplechase course, just beyond the western boundary, owned by Mr. William Du Pont and associates. Much of New Munster itself has been acquired by the same group for stock farm purposes. Enough that the physical remains of the tract are inconspicuous and unimportant, and but for its unique connection with Maryland and national history, its story would be as colorless as the average title abstract.

The able local historian, George Johnston, has preserved many facts relating to the settlement, in conjunction with the romantic and daring exploits of Colonel George Talbot on the border when the Penn-Baltimore controversy was rife; also in explanation of the numerous old Presbyterian churches and cemeteries thereabouts.

He concludes, as all researchers must, that Talbot's " other Irishmen " turned out to be Ulster Scots, whether by accident or design, but does not attempt to establish that fact as a logical sequence of the Calvert settlement policy and the imminent need of thwarting William Penn. Nor has he claimed for Cecil County the credit it deserves as one of the earliest and most influential centers of Scotch Irish settlement. The admitted importance of this breed in later history makes worth while an inquiry as to its local seed bed.

At the period, 1683, a half century had elapsed since Charles I granted his then favorite, George Calvert, the most liberal char[illegible]ter yet known, with rights about equivalent to those the " King hath in his palace."

A realistic land settlement program followed. Fealty to the proprietary and payment of a moderate quit rent were the only conditions generally affixed to a grant of land. Every adult adventurer might have 50 to 100 acres upon the mere act of immigration. Traces of the feudal system were apparent in the offer of manors, 2000 to 6000 acres to chosen individuals and groups, with appurtenant rights such as court-baron and frank-pledge. But the tenancy idea did not thrive here, where individual aspirations seemed to spring from the land itself. All estates granted became practically allodial or fee simple. Civil and religious privileges were liberal. Competitive conditions among the projectors of colonies required such liberality. The harassed as well as the venturesome were to be encouraged and fortunately the Calverts were not imbued with theocratic or utopian notions to hamper plantation and development.

From the problem of merely settling the land and assuring revenue therefrom, it was soon necessary to face that of preserving the integrity and protecting the boundaries of the province. Following the settlement with Claiborne and suppression of minor Indian uprisings, there developed uncertainties as to Virginia, with actual threats of invasion on the seaboard side to follow, culminating with Penn's claim to a twenty-mile strip on the north " to the fortieth degree " at the period of the New Munster grant.

The " conditions of plantation " were being altered progressively to attract settlers to the disputed areas. The advent of Governor William Stone, a Protestant, in 1648 marked a new influx of settlers. In his commission Lord Baltimore set forth that Stone

> hath undertaken to procure five hundred people of British or Irish descent to come from other places and plant and reside within our said province for the advancement of our colony there.

An act of religious toleration was adopted the following year and the bid for settlers soon enlarged to include " those of French, Dutch and Italian descent." Stone's first experiment in mass migration was the seating of the Puritans ostracized by Virginia at Providence on the Severn. It proved an unhappy one. The colonies were quick to react to the violent clashes between creeds across the water and the Puritan party here in the flush of its ascendancy, seized the reins of government. After a sizable battle on the Severn in 1655, Stone was made prisoner and escaped execution by a hair.

Meanwhile Lord Baltimore was urging the establishment of permanent settlements " on that tract of land commonly called the Eastern Shore, lying between the Bay of Chesapeake and the Sea . . . for the better publication and remembrance of the bounds between Virginia and Maryland and prevention of controversies which may hereafter happen between the inhabitants of Virginia and those of our province."

Virginia having exiled the Quakers by statute and shown disfavor to nonconformists generally, Governor Calvert issued a proclamation November 6, 1661, under authority of Cecil Lord Baltimore " that the late inhabitants of Northampton-Accomack County, Virginia, be granted lands upon the Eastern Shore of the Province . . . to the end that this part of the province next adjoining said county be peopled." The first settlements in the area which became Somerset County date from this period and were chiefly composed of these migrants.

By 1667, the English had completed their conquest of Dutch territory on the Hudson and Delaware, and the Duke of York succeeded to the Dutch rights. The Council are informed that several persons " are seated on the seaboard side and do pretend to be under the Government of New York " and the question of territorial rights was to be determined by quick occupancy pending " a right understanding betwixt the two governments."

Colonel William Stevens was chosen as a medium for securing the settlement of that region, then known as " The Hoarkill " and later embraced within Somerset County. A special warant for 8000 acres was granted " to be proportioned out by him for the encouragement of such as will seat there," with special inducements to families having " at least two working hands " who agreed to settle forthwith " and not desert their plantations." The group settlement idea was growing. Aside from protection, religious alignments, racial distinctions, family and social ties all favored it. So far as the Scotch Irish were concerned they constituted " congregations." Church history when available may, therefore, be useful where other data is vague.

It seems coincidental that Presbyterian organization reached a high point in Somerset County in 1683, the year of the New Munster grant, through the arrival of Francis Makemie as the direct result of Colonel Stevens' request of a North Ireland presbytery for " a Godly minister." Three others either accompanied or followed Makemie into Somerset. The records show the existence of congregations both here and on the western shore—Prince George's and Charles Counties, from about 1668. Makemie soon set about organizing a presbytery. When formed in 1705/6 under the name Philadelphia Presbytery, *five* of the original seven members were from Maryland,—one from Delaware and one from Philadelphia. For a period of about 38 years thereafter there was but one church of this denomination in Philadelphia. From the time of formation of New Castle Presbytery in 1716 it was the center of a much larger group surrounding the section at the head of the Bay and lower Pennsylvania. The Scottish surnames identified with old Somerset begin to appear in Cecil County and thereabout at later dates, with steady increase of church activities in the border region. The known disfavor of Penn and his agents toward this sect, together with many collateral facts confirm and explain the steady gravitation to this center. Following the settlement activities on the Eastern Shore, the Proprietary was confronted with William Penn's threatened usurpation at the north. He had arrived (in 1682) with his charter, and with deeds from the Duke of York covering the three lower counties—Delaware. The " Seaboard Side " seemed hopeless but Charles Calvert and his irascible surveyor general George Talbot had thrown a challenge to Penn on the " fortieth degree " claim.

On March 19, 1683, the Lord Proprietary issued a commission to Talbot to " lett any part of his Lordship's two manors in Cecil County " in the following language:

> Whereas it hath been always our intent to strengthen and fortify the northern parts of this our province of Maryland, the better to enable the inhabitants

> thereof *to resist the invasion and outrages of the northern Indians*: And whereas we have two manors in New Ireland, in Cecil county, each called Baltemore mannor, lying between Elk river, and the North East (als Shennon) river, which if well seated would conduce much to the strength and convenienceу of the neighbourhood thereabouts; We do therefore hereby authorise you to lay out in each of our said mannors, two hundred acres for demesnes, and to grant warrants of survey on all the rest to such persons as shall intend immediately to seate upon the same; (noe warrant to exceed two hundred acres;) And we do thereby promise to all such takers up of lands in our said mannors, that they shall at their election have leases of one and thirty years, or three lives granted them, at the yearly rent of one hundred pounds of tobacco, or one barrill of corne, or shall have firm grants to them and their heirs for ever, at the yearly rent of two hundred pounds of tobacco, per hundred acres, etc.

It must have been with tongue in cheek that the allusion to " northern Indians " was made. Certainly the only invasion then threatened in that quarter was that of neighbor Penn. In direct pursuance of this authority, Talbot on August 7th, 1683, issued the certificate of survey of the New Munster tract to " Edwin O'Dwire and fifteen other [unnamed] Irishmen."

When Calvert sailed to meet Penn in London during the summer of 1684 for a test of their respective territorial rights, the stage seemed set for an unhappy ending. A *quo warranto* proceeding for annulment of Calvert's charter was pending. Penn's claims had royal support. His friend the Duke of York was soon to ascend the throne as James II. George Talbot had been made chief of a council of nine to govern the province in Charles Calvert's absence, the heir, Benedict Leonard Calvert, being a minor. Talbot's murder of Revenue Collector Rousby and consequent flight proved the culminating woe. The fort at Christiana and the projected county of New Ireland passed from the scene. But for the New Munster tract, already laid out, no tangible relic of Talbot's bold campaign would have remained. The Charter was saved from annulment, but the issue of the " Fortieth Degree " was irretrievably lost.

Calvert himself had not despaired, for in reporting the unhappy outcome of the proceedings at London to his provincial council December 1, 1685, he hopefully adds:

> In the meantime I desire and hereby order you to take care to prevent Penn's people from making any settlements near heads and branches of any of the rivers that fall into Chesapeake Bay, and to encourage the inhabitants of my Province that have already surveyed lands in those parts to seat them in my right as soon as they can, and particularly to take care the Pennsylvanians make no further encroachments on the lands where Colonel George Talbot was seated, and to secure the fort near Christiana Bridge until you hear fur-

ther from me, being resolved notwithstanding this order to keep possession of what is surveyed, and to be on the defensive part rather than forced to complain.

Lord Baltimore's allusion to settlements at the heads of rivers and lands seated by Talbot points directly to New Munster. It was a *fait accompli*, though but a fragment of the great seating project intended to checkmate Penn.

With the feudal element present in all Maryland grants, the Proprietor may well have relied upon the allegiance and support of his settlers in defense of his title under ancient custom. But the old order had passed and, as matters turned, the fifteen Irishmen or whoever settled these parts, were spared any call as liegemen. They were henceforth free to pursue their individual interests, and to bring about the doom of feudalism, along with other forms of political servitude.

With this background of events and settlement policy, we come to the speculative inquiry, Who were Edwin (or Edmond) O'Dwire and the fifteen other Irishmen?

It will be noted from the Proprietary's commission to George Talbot in 1683, that the tenures granted the " takers up " of the land should be, *at their election*, " leases for one and thirty years " or " firm grants to them and their heirs forever."

It may be merely coincidence, or a lack of certainty in the grant of " New Munster " itself, that the earliest deeds to actual settlers of the tract were executed and recorded in 1714, just 31 years after the original grant in 1683. Occupation of the land being the primary objective of the Proprietary, and possession the traditional " nine-points " to the settler, the choice of tenure was unimportant at the time. It became important, however, by the time the lease period had expired when permanent domiciles had been established and improvements made. Title had meanwhile passed from O'Dwire to several other non-resident holders. That O'Dwire never " seated " himself on the land, in the sense contemplated by the Proprietary's commission to Talbot, seems clear. While there is no conveyance from him on record, an instrument executed in 1691 refers to him as " late of this province."

Eventually, one Thomas Stevenson, of Bensalem, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, acquired title to a substantial portion of the tract, about 3,000 acres, and in May 1714 deeded about 1150 acres to a " company " consisting of Matthew Wallace, yeoman, James Alexander, farmer, Arthur Alexander, farmer, David Alexander, weaver, James Alexander, weaver, and Joseph Alexander, tanner. This deed, conveying title in fee simple, executed under Stevenson's power of attorney to " my friend John MacKnitt, of Back Creek in Cecil County, Md.," recites that inasmuch as the above grantees, Matthew Wallace and company, had " for some years last past improved and possessed said tract " and divided same " among themselves, each man according to his holden,"

> I, the said Stevenson being minded to sell ye said tract, thought it most equitable, honest and right that they, ye said possessors thereof should have the first offer to buy

provided they complied with his terms as to price, which they had done.

Thomas Stevenson had previously,—prior to 1710—conveyed land in Bucks County to a group of Dutch settlers who formed the Bensalem Presbyterian Church, thus evidencing a personal interest in church organization. Incidentally, the Neshaminy Church nearby, seat of the famous " Log College " was also of Dutch derivation, as was that at New Castle, whereas the Maryland churches appear to have all had a Scotch Irish basis.

Johnston, in his history of Cecil County, concludes from the Stevenson deed that the grantees named were among the " fifteen other Irishmen " and, therefore, original settlers. This is plausible as can be, short of a factual demonstration. All parties to the 1714 transaction were of Scotch derivation. Stevenson's " friend," John MacKnitt, was located in Somerset County, Maryland, at an earlier date and has been identified as a member of one of the earliest Presbyterian congregations. There is record there of the marriage in 1693 of John MacKnitt with Jane Wallis (Wallace). One of the James Alexanders of New Munster married Margaret, daughter of John MacKnitt. Their son John McKnitt Alexander migrated to North Carolina and became secretary of the Mecklenburg Convention of 1775. There are numerous other chains of association between individuals in this group.

Henry Jones Ford, in his scholarly and well authenticated work, *The Scotch Irish in America*, refers to the group settlement on the New Munster tract as the earliest definitely recorded. Not surprisingly, he assumes that there must have been fifteen *real* Irishmen besides O'Dwire, and from the name " New Munster " surmises that they came from *south* Ireland. He was apparently unmindful of George Talbot's curious penchant for Irish place names which caused him to re-name the Northeast River " Shannon " and Susquehanna Manor " New Connaught," and of the border-protective purpose underlying the project of the " County of New Ireland."

the professions. Among others, John Ewing, James Latta, Matthew Wilson, Samuel Davies, Joseph Alexander, Charles Thomson (secretary, Continental Congress), Governor Thomas McKean (Penna.), Governor John Henry (Md.), Governor Alexander Martin (N. C.), Richard Stockton (Signer, N. J.), George Read (Signer, Del.), James Smith (Signer, Penna.), Dr. Benjamin Rush (Signer, Penna.), Dr. John Archer, John Bayard, Ebenezer Hazard, James Waddell, Hugh Williamson and Alexander McWhorter. Robert Smith, alumnus of Faggs Manor, in turn founded a notable academy at Pequa.

Davies, Finley and the Blairs joined with the Tennents, of Log College on the Neshaminy, in the founding of the College of New Jersey (Princeton). For the Academy at Philadelphia, later to become the University of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin drafted Alison and Ewing. Other colleges may be directly traced to the same root—Hampden-Sidney, Dickinson, Washington and Lee, to name a few. Newark Academy, now the University of Delaware was the outgrowth of the New London school. Ford credits the origin of the University of North Carolina to the pioneer school of Joseph Alexander, of New Munster (Princeton 1760) in Mecklenburg County.

The influence of the itinerant minister—the circuit rider of the day—is more difficult to appraise, but a great horde of them came out of New Castle Presbytery. Some, fortunately, were diarists, and their records are revealing. For instance, one John Cuthbertson landed at New Castle from Ireland August 5, 1751. The same day, he relates, " Rode twenty miles to the home of Moses Andrews " (at New Munster). Two days later he rides " Fifteen miles to Joseph Rosses at New London." This is the beginning of a missionary tour lasting forty years and covering 60,000 miles on horseback, according to the record. There were many others, Beatty, the two Brainards, McClure, Fithian (Beatty's son-in-law), Duffield, the Finleys and McMillan, to mention a few. Not all these started from New Castle, but all went under the same direction, during the pre-Revolution period.

The peregrinating preacher was a means of wide dissemination of both political and religious doctrine. These coalesced perfectly in the rising spirit of individualism. Little wonder that the conservative party laid upon the dissident Scotch Irish the charge of fomenting the Revolution.

" Unauthorized " settlements were made by Scotch Irish west of the Susquehanna as early as 1730 on the Conococheague (now Franklin County, Pa.) and they are referred to in Pennsylvania history as " intruders under Lord Baltimore's title." They spread steadily through the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys and by way of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia into North Carolina. The New Munster section was the most prolific source of these early migrations.

By the time of the Braddock expedition in 1755 the Scotch Irish were pushing the frontier even beyond the point of safety from Indian attack. Every adult had become of necessity a rifleman and every congregation a convenient military unit.

In Cumberland County John Armstrong found the nucleus for his expedition against Kittanning (1756) in the first Presbyterian church. Parson John Steele of the same county, but late of New Castle, became Captain Steele, and his meeting-house " Fort Steele." John Elder, known as the " fighting Parson " became Captain Elder and commander of a fort on the Susquehanna. John Craighead fought and preached alternately and, according to the D. A. R. monument near Chambersburg, Pa. " led every man in his congregation " into battle. It is said that when Rev. James Finley of " The Rock " church migrated to Western Pennsylvania, at least thirty neighboring families followed his lead.

There were those who envisaged " Canaan " in the south. For them, the trail turned into the Valley of Virginia. There were Scotch-Irish settlements as far down as the Yadkin and Catawba Rivers before 1745, and soon after a great exodus out of the New Munster region into Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, developed. Family groups, including the Alexanders, Polks, Brevards, Sharps, McWhorters, Grahams, Davidsons, Pattons and Harrises moved about the time the pioneer ministers, Hugh McAden, Alexander Craighead, Hezekiah J. Balch, Joseph Alexander and others were sent out by New Castle Presbytery as " missionaries " to the Carolinas. They were of the group that formed the county of Mecklenburg in 1763, became its first magistrates, organized at least seven Presbyterian churches and a number of schools, with deeds such as the Battle of King's Mountain to follow later.

There are no available statistics on this movement, but there is no doubt of its source and magnitude. One early historian (Alexander Hewatt) wrote:

> About this time (1763) above a thousand families, with their effects in the space of one year resorted to Carolina, driving their cattle, hogs and horses overland before them.

Another (Dr. Hugh Williamson) writing in 1812, of the Yadkin River section:

> Emigrants from the north of Ireland, by the way of Pennsylvania, flocked to that country, and a considerable part of North Carolina, is inhabited by those people or their descendants.

Closer inquiry will disclose that " Pennsylvania " as thus used means the Maryland borderland we have described. As examples of record evidence, one Cecil County will (1778) refers to three children, heads of families, and another (1789) to six " now residing in North Carolina." The chains of connection between this center and the entire Appalachian frontier are apparent in every study of these settlements.

Of the twenty-seven members of the Mecklenburg Convention who, according to legend on the Charlotte monument, signed the Declaration of Independence on May 20, 1775, at least twenty-four may be traced to New Munster, or its immediate environs. Six of these bore the name Alexander. A trite but telling illustration of the fruitfulness of the settlement is the fact that the Alexanders alone now consume about five pages in the Charlotte City Directory. Elsewhere, too, may be found equally striking examples of the spread of New Munster stock.

It seems well to close this story of New Munster at the eve of the Revolution although the thread of connection runs interminably through later history. Enough to have indicated what important consequences may arise out of a seemingly trivial event, such as the laying out of a tract of land for an uncertain group of Irishmen.

It is gratifying, of course, to find that the recalcitrant breed which James I thought " agreeth as well with monarchy as God with the devil " and sought to " harry out of the land " were found to be eminently fit and suitable for border settlement by Lord Baltimore and his deputy, Talbot.

Bibliographical Notes

A carefully prepared description of " New Munster, New Ireland County, Maryland " by Michael J. O'Brien, Esq., appearing in the *Journal of the American Irish Historical Society*," vol. 26 (1927) deserves attention. Mr. O'Brien has incorrectly assumed, however, that the settlers were native or Celtic Irish.

Every channel of inquiry confirms the fact that practically all of the early settlers in this locality were protestant. No invidious distinction is intended, but it is clear that until sometime after the parish division by the Established Church in 1692, it had little foothold here, and until a much later date, no appreciable Catholic population appeared in the described area.

As indices of racial origin, the first census of 1790 covering North Milford Hundred, Cecil County, and the land and probate records of Cecil County may be relied upon.

A single probate record is typical: " Estate of William Ferguson " (Book 2/187) in 1762 mentions the names Alexander, Scott, Gillespie, Caruthers, Jordan, Wallace, Andrews, Caldwell and Longwill—all residents.

Ford in *Scotch Irish in America* says (181): " All accessible data indicates that the Chesapeake Bay settlements were the first distinctively Scotch Irish settlements made in America." This was prior to 1680.

And further (212): " Taking the earliest distinct mention of Scotch Irish settlements as the safest guide, their chronological order appears to be as follows:

1. Maryland 1680
2. South Carolina 1682
3. Pennsylvania 1708
4. New England 1718."

The following are of special value as authorities, aside from Maryland *Archives,* Land Office and County Records:

John Kilty's *Landholder's Assistant.* Baltimore, 1808. Invaluable on the early land system and government of Maryland.

George Johnston's *History of Cecil County.* Elkton, 1881. A work of exceptional merit.

Henry Jones Ford's *Scotch Irish in America.* Princeton, 1915.

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